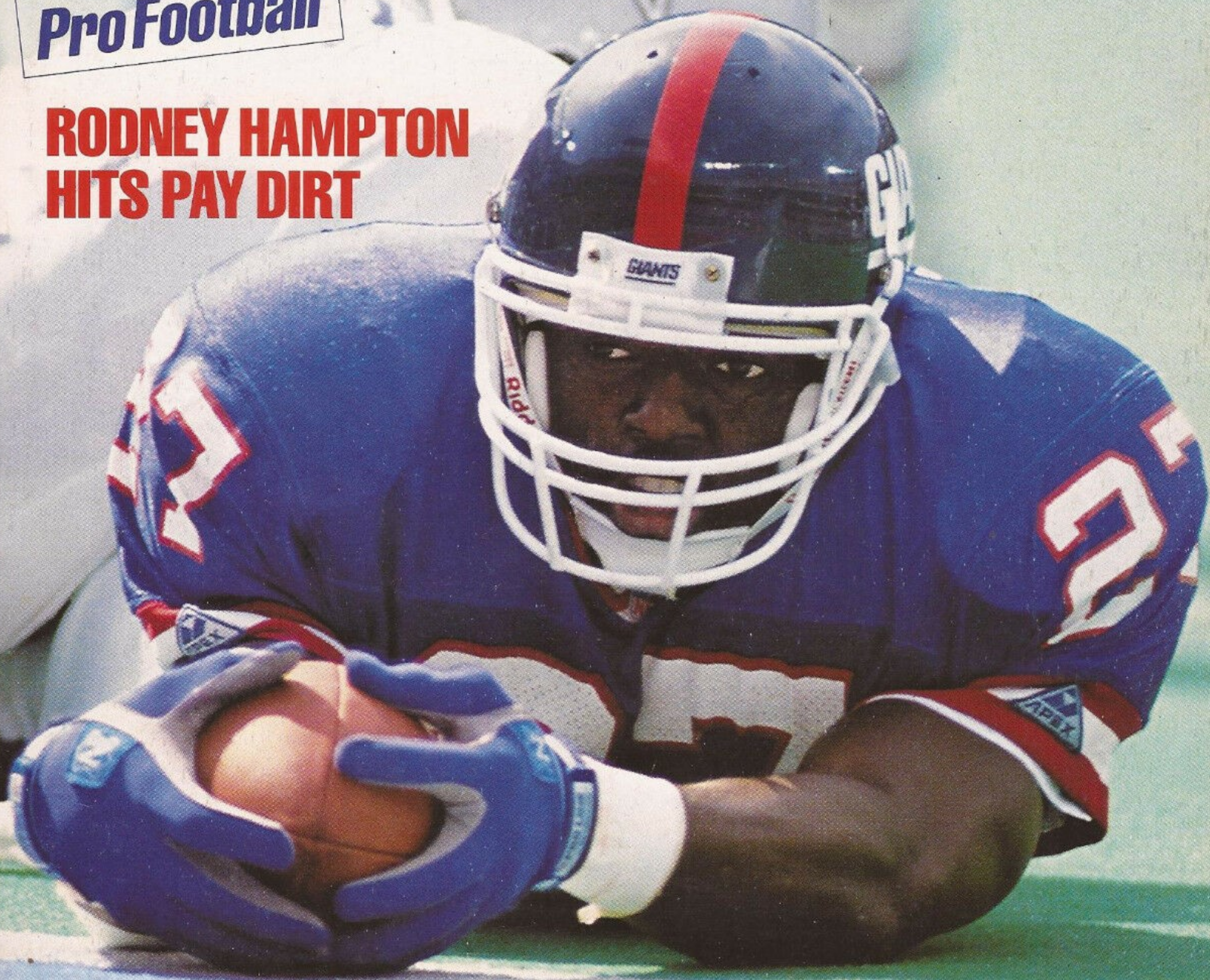


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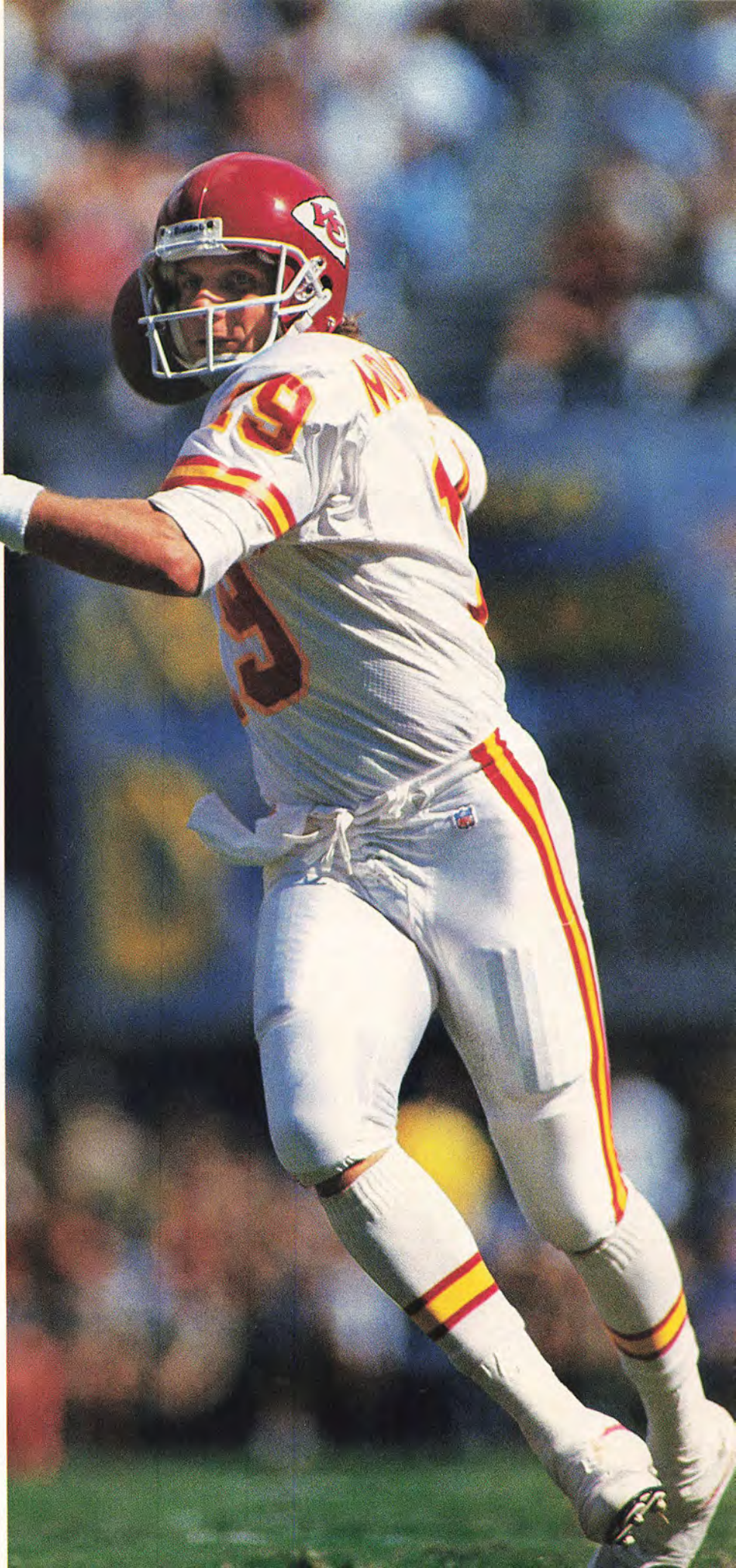
Pro Football

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June 1994 **32**nd year

Scott Wachter



Letter From the Editor

● In this the 32nd edition of *Street & Smith's Pro Football*, we welcome our new affiliation with the National Football League Players Association and join them in saluting the NFL on its 75th anniversary in 1994. We are eagerly awaiting the new season, and in our excitement have created our biggest and most colorful issue ever.

In addition to our annual in-depth team previews, we offer a number of compelling stories. Take, for example, the 1990 draft. That year produced an exceptional group of running backs. Of the 45 selected, 22 are still active, 20 have been starters, 14 have rushed for 100 yards in a game and seven have enjoyed 1,000-yard seasons and been to the Pro Bowl. In the four Super Bowls since that draft, the class of '90 has collected four championship rings. Rodney Hampton got the first one with the New York Giants, Brian Mitchell the second with the Washington Redskins, and Emmitt Smith the third and fourth with the Dallas Cowboys.

Smith operates in a league of his own, so we had to give him his own feature. The 17th player chosen in that draft, Smith is the one indispensable member of the two-time Super Bowl champs. That was evident last September when the Cowboys dropped their first two games with Smith on the sidelines in a contract dispute. Back on track, he won his third straight rushing title, overcame a separated shoulder in the playoffs, and added the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player trophy to the MVP he earned in the regular season. He is on target to shatter the Cowboy records held by Tony Dorsett, who (with Randy White, Bud Grant, Jimmy Johnson, Leroy Kelly, and Jackie Smith) will celebrate the '94 season with an induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In the four years since the 1990 draft, only one player has crossed the goal line more often than Smith: San Francisco's Jerry Rice. And with three touchdowns this fall, Rice will pass Jim Brown for the top spot in the NFL record book. Don't look for any choreography from him in the end zone. Football's greatest receiver is anti-spike.

The Denver Broncos added a Rice-type receiver in Anthony Miller, the defector from the San Diego Chargers who gives quarterback John Elway the game-breaking threat he has lacked. Miller was one of a record number of high-profile players who changed teams during the spring, making a free-agent scorecard (which we provide) mandatory equipment for fans.

We also include profiles of the game's best defenders. Seth Joyner, the NFL's most versatile linebacker, has relocated from Philadelphia to Arizona to rejoin the Buddy (Ryan) system. Pittsburgh's Rod Woodson is the first back since Kenny Easley in 1984 to be named the league's Defensive Player of the Year.

And for those readers who are not content with an analysis of the 1994 rookies, we present an early preview of the 1995 draft and project the top pick. (Hint: He will be the first small-college quarterback to go No. 1 since Terry Bradshaw in 1970.) See inside for further details.

Gerald Kavanagh

Street & Smith's

Pro Football

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Running Mates

by **RICK GOSSELIN**
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The class of '90 produced an exceptional group of backs.

REGGIE COBB

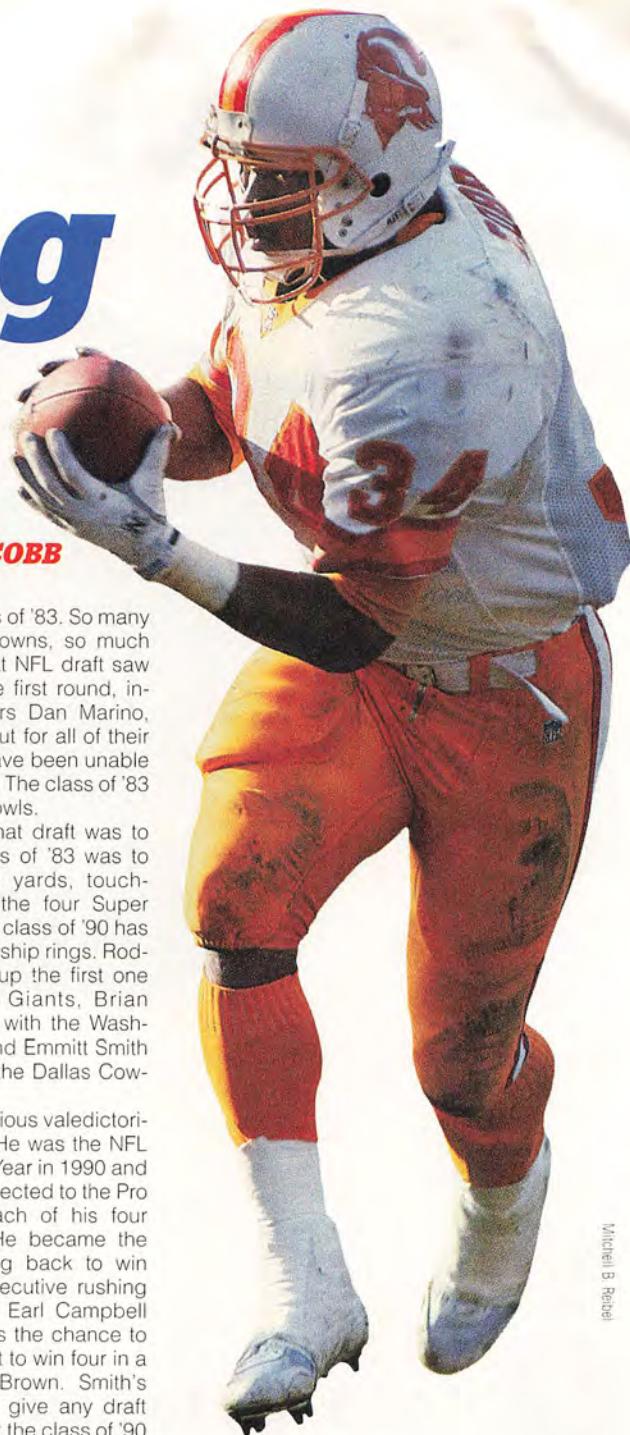
● Pity the pro football class of '83. So many yards, so many touchdowns, so much talent—and so few rings. That NFL draft saw six quarterbacks taken in the first round, including future Hall of Famers Dan Marino, John Elway, and Jim Kelly. But for all of their passes and panache, they have been unable to deliver any championships. The class of '83 is a combined 0-9 in Super Bowls.

Not so the class of '90. That draft was to running backs what the class of '83 was to quarterbacks, gushing with yards, touchdowns, and talent. And in the four Super Bowls since that draft, the class of '90 has collected four championship rings. Rodney Hampton picked up the first one with the New York Giants, Brian Mitchell the second with the Washington Redskins, and Emmitt Smith the next two with the Dallas Cowboys.

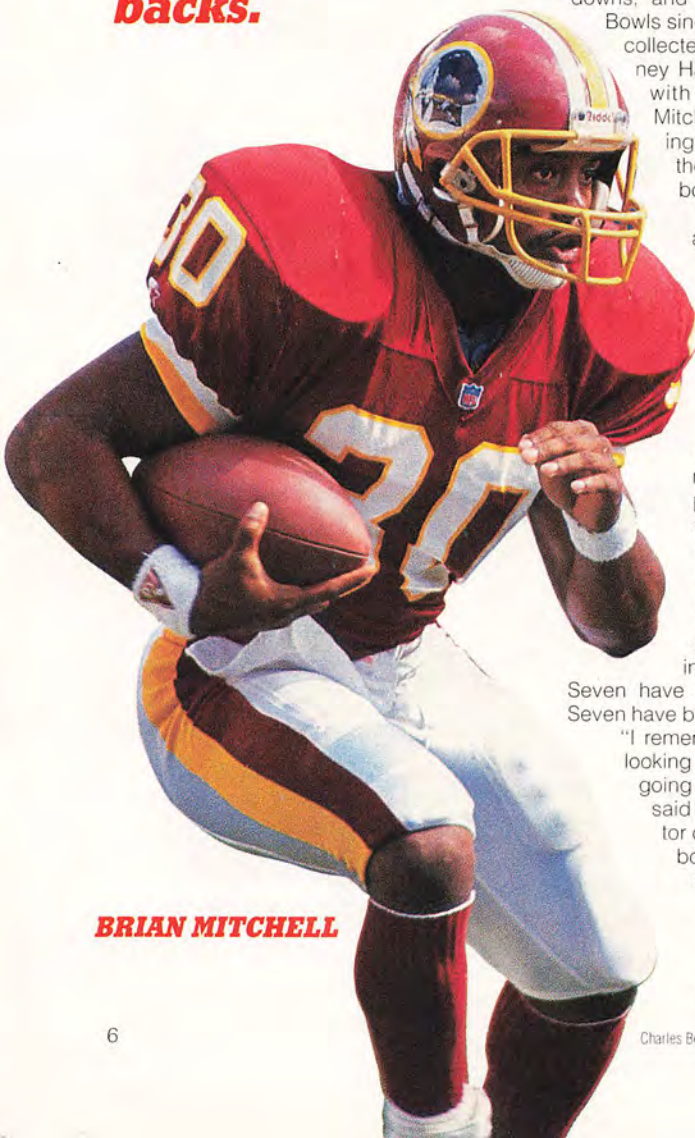
Smith is the obvious valedictorian of his class. He was the NFL Rookie of the Year in 1990 and has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his four seasons. He became the first running back to win three consecutive rushing titles since Earl Campbell and now has the chance to become the first to win four in a row since Jim Brown. Smith's presence would give any draft class a glow. But the class of '90 shines even brighter for its depth. Of the 45 running backs selected, 22 of them are still in the league. Twenty have been starters. Fourteen have checked in with 100-yard rushing games.

Seven have amassed 1,000-yard seasons. Seven have been to the Pro Bowl.

"I remember sitting there on draft day, looking at the board and saying, 'We're going to get a good running back.' " said Bob Ackles, who was the director of player personnel for the Cowboys at the time and is now the assistant general manager of the Phoenix Cardinals. "I didn't think we'd get Emmitt Smith... but I knew we were going to get a good one. There were so many of them."



Mitchell B. Reibel



BRIAN MITCHELL

The NFL can thank Barry Sanders, in part, for that. He was the best college runner in the land in 1988, setting NCAA records with his 2,628 yards and 37 touchdowns at Oklahoma State. He won the Heisman Trophy, leaving little else for him to accomplish on amateur fields. So Sanders decided to skip his senior season and apply for admission to the 1989 NFL draft. Concerned with the possibility of a lawsuit, the NFL awarded Sanders and a handful of other underclassmen special eligibility. Sanders was drafted third overall by the Detroit Lions and became the same dominating runner as a pro that he was as a collegian. He led the NFC in rushing in his first season, setting a club record with 1,470 yards.

"Sanders fit right in to NFL football," Ackles said. "A lot of kids might have been thinking, 'Holy cow, that's a big step up.' Then they see

Sanders come in and do that and think, 'I can do it too.' I'm sure he had an impact on that run [of underclassmen] in 1990."

Run? Try a stampede. Among those leaving college early for the NFL were the three top halfbacks in the SEC—Smith (Florida), Hampton (Georgia), and Reggie Cobb (Tennessee)—plus two of the best in the ACC in Terry Allen (Clemson) and Marcus Wilson (Virginia). Two of the nation's leading fullbacks joined them: Barry Foster (Arkansas) and Leroy Hoard (Michigan). The success of Sanders was the underlying factor in the exodus. He was the trailblazer for NFL underclassmen. But there were other reasons, such as the fear of injury, coaching changes, financial hardship, concern about a future salary cap. "We all had our own reasons," Hoard said.

The bottom line produced a unique draft-day bonanza. Not only would NFL teams have the best senior running backs to choose from in 1990, a class headlined by All-Americans Blair Thomas and Anthony Thompson, but some of the top juniors as well. That double dip created an unprecedented talent pool of running backs. "One of the best," said Ackles of the class of '90, "if not the best."

DRAFT BOARD

The New York Jets were the first to visit that class when they selected Penn State's Thomas with the second overall pick. But the next back didn't go until Dallas traded up to get Smith in the 17th slot. The Cowboys entered

the draft looking for defensive help, but could not swing a trade that would move them up into the top 10. As the draft wound into the teens, Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson surmised that the value on the board when the Cowboys picked 21st would be at running back and that Hampton was the player most likely to be there. Smith surely wouldn't. He was the fourth player on the Dallas draft board. Somebody would draft him.

But no one did. Smith, who finished third in the nation in rushing, with 1,599 yards, was sliding. So Johnson decided to go get him before someone else did. If he was going to draft a running back, why not draft the best one? The Cowboys had Smith rated higher on their draft board than Thomas. So they moved up four spots in a trade with Pittsburgh and claimed Smith.

"You've got to visualize our board," Johnson recalled. "Emmitt was way up there, kind of as a solitary tag. There weren't any names around him. All the others had been picked. He kind of stood out like a sore thumb. He was the best player on our board by far."

That started the run on runners. Green Bay selected Darrell Thompson of Minnesota at 19 and Atlanta took Steve Broussard of Washington State at 20. The Giants drafted Hampton at 24 and San Francisco followed with Dexter Carter of Florida State at 25. All have started in the NFL and had 100-yard rushing games.

Six first-rounders, mirroring the six quarterbacks in the class of '83. But there probably

should have been a seventh. Cobb also had first-round ability. He had better size (6-0, 217) than Thomas and better speed than Smith. He also had the flashy statistics. As a freshman at Tennessee, Cobb rushed for 1,197 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. An ankle injury limited him to 547 yards as a sophomore, but he seemed to restore his All-America stock as a junior with 616 yards through five games. Then Cobb flunked a random drug test and was off the team.

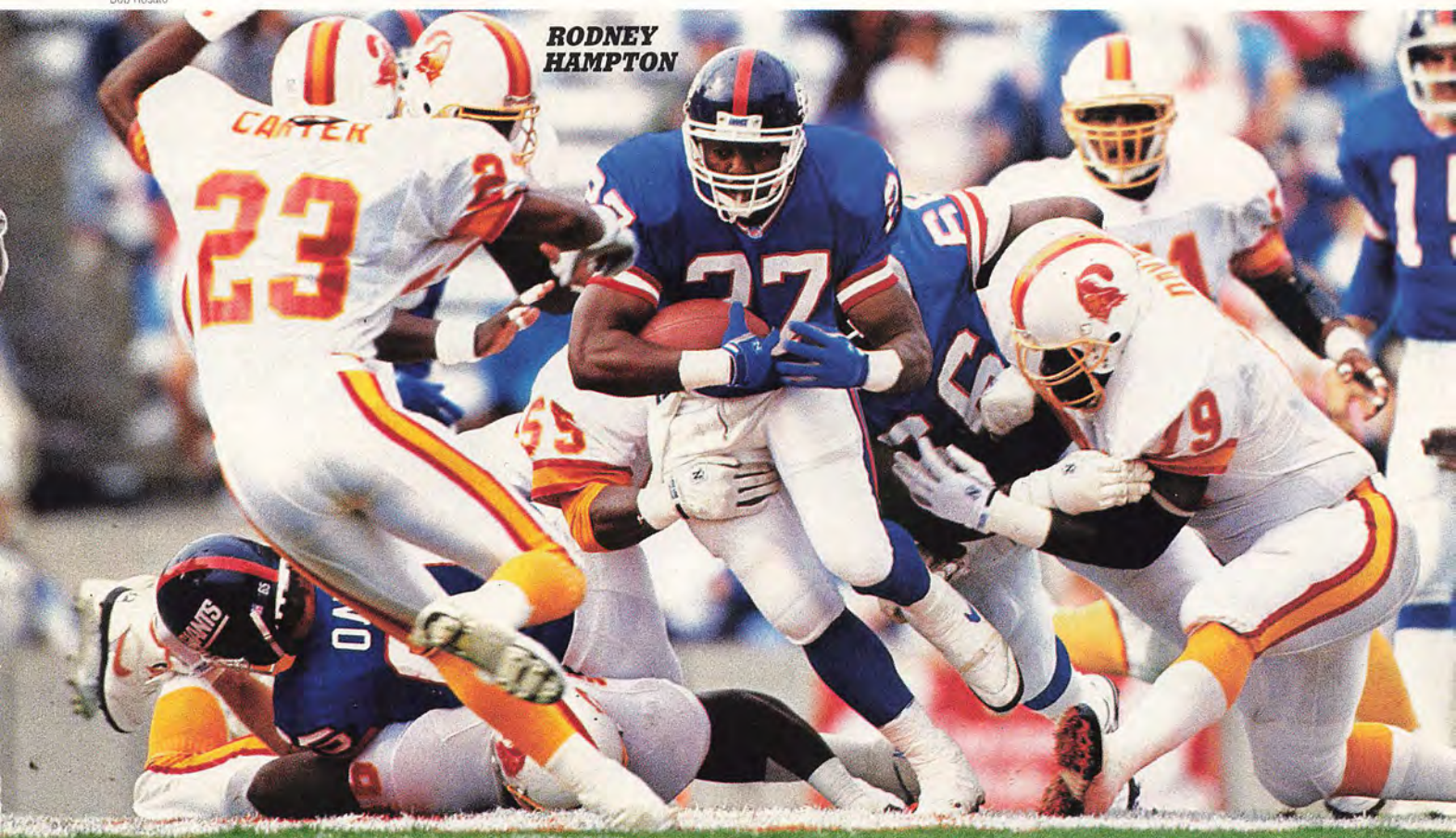
"It was a reality check," Cobb said. "I had just run for 225 yards against Auburn. The next week, I wasn't playing football. Looking back, it was probably one of the best things that ever happened to me. It made me grow up. I went from being a Heisman Trophy candidate one day to not knowing if I'd ever play football again the next. It was a time when I really needed to get my life straight."

Cobb had two options: Enroll at an NAIA school, which would allow him to play his final college season in 1990 without sitting out a year, or turn pro. His decision was an easy one. "I felt I had done well enough at Division I," Cobb said. "I didn't see how I could benefit by stepping down to an NAIA school. It was time for me to move on."

Tampa Bay stepped up in the second round and drafted Cobb with the 30th overall pick, the seventh running back to go. That allowed Cobb to put his 1989 season behind him. "At the time I had more yards than all of them," Cobb said. "My backup, Chuck Webb,

Continued

Bob Rosalo



RODNEY HAMPTON

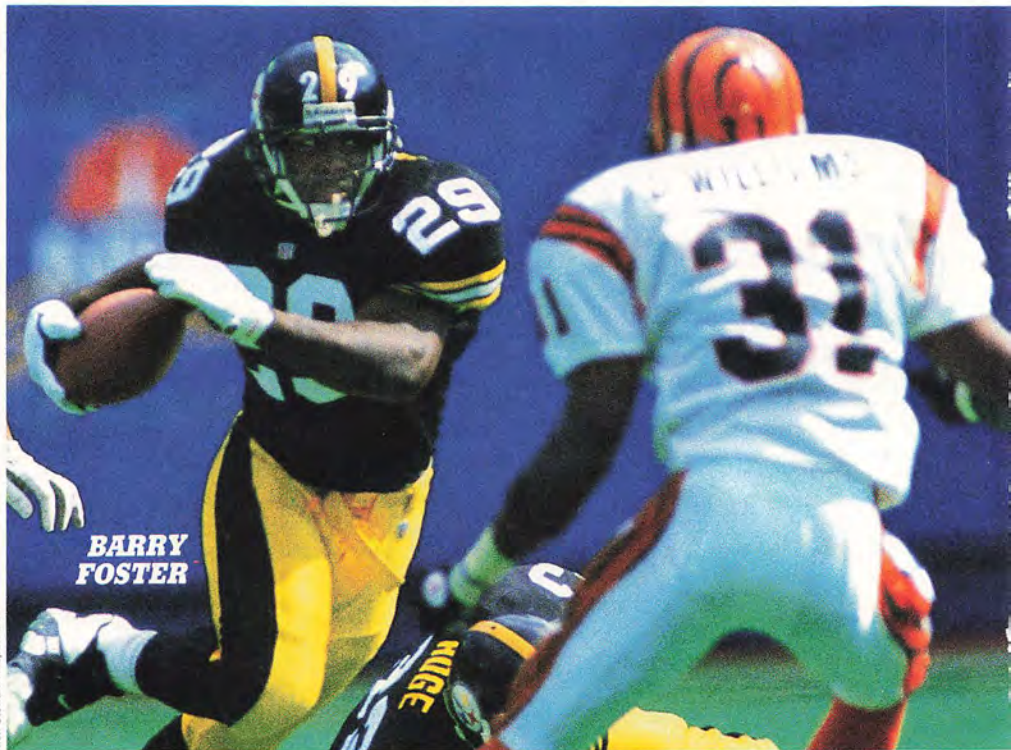
came in and finished with about 1,200 yards that year. Those were my yards. A lot of teams told me if it wasn't for that, I'd have been one of the first backs picked. I could have been up there with Blair Thomas."

DRAFT BARGAINS

Cobb proved he belonged up there with Thomas when he rushed for 1,171 yards in his third year with the Buccaneers. Thomas is still looking for his first 1,000-yard season. But Cobb wasn't the only bargain in the draft. The Seattle Seahawks plucked Chris Warren out of tiny Ferrum College in the fourth round. That's a Division III school with no scholarships. But Warren produced Jim Thorpe-like numbers there, amassing 1,714 all-purpose yards and scoring 19 touchdowns. He averaged 7.9 yards per rush, 15.1 yards per catch, 23.4 yards per punt return, and 33.3 yards per kickoff return. He even threw a touchdown pass. Warren may have been competing in Division III, but he wasn't competing with Division III players. His competition was the Emmitt Smiths and Anthony Thompsons.

"I kept track of the guys at the top 20 schools," Warren said. "That gave me something to shoot for. I knew I could be as good as those guys. They were getting all the publicity. If they gained 150 yards, I knew I had to gain 250 to get any kind of recognition in the paper. I wanted to show everyone I was the same caliber of back as they were."

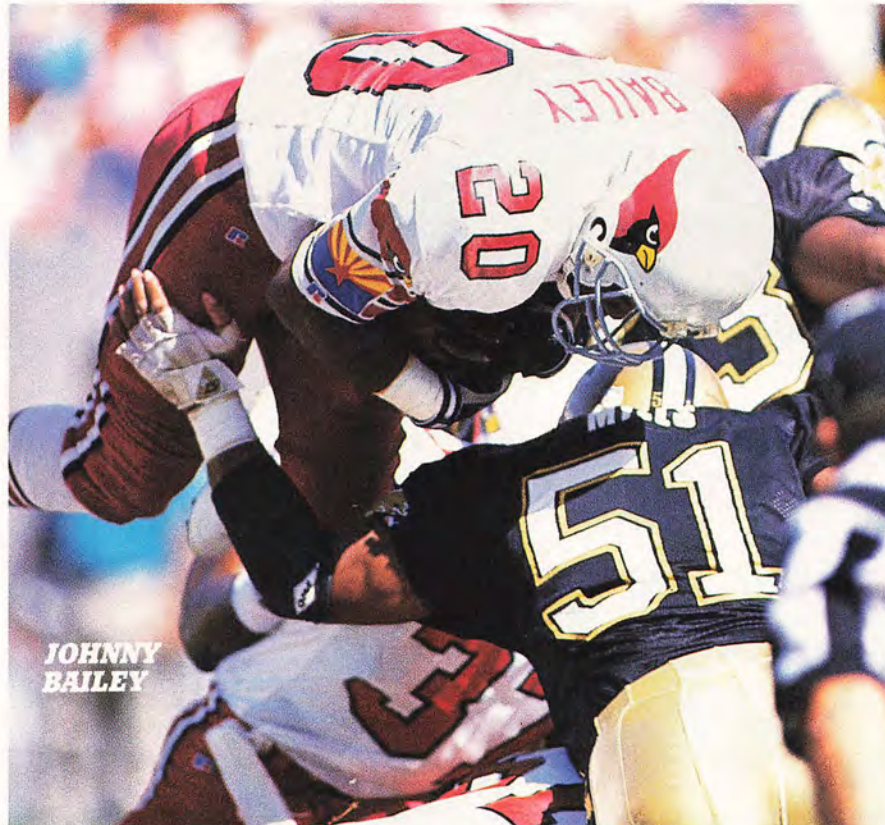
His ticket would be his ability to return kicks. Warren ran five back for touchdowns in his senior year. The Seahawks plugged him in as their return man and he spent his first two NFL seasons on special teams, averaging a respectable 21.9 yards on kickoffs and 9.5 yards on punts. He ran the ball from scrimmage only 17 times those two seasons. When



BARRY FOSTER

incumbent halfback Derrick Fenner left Seattle in Plan B in 1992, Warren finally got his chance to carry the ball and rushed for 1,017 yards. He followed with another 1,000-yard season in 1993 and was selected for his first Pro Bowl.

"There were no big expectations on me," Warren said. "So anything I did was a plus. But I knew all along I could play at this level. I



JOHNNY BAILEY



EMMITT SMITH

knew I'd get a shot. It was just a matter of being patient."

Patience also was a virtue of Larry Centers, another small-school find who went to the Cardinals in the fifth round. He played in a one-back, pass-oriented scheme in his senior year at Stephen F. Austin. He rushed for 1,100 yards, but NFL scouts liked his hands better—hands that caught 44 passes. Centers was projected as a nickel back, but that role was already occupied in Phoenix by veteran Vai

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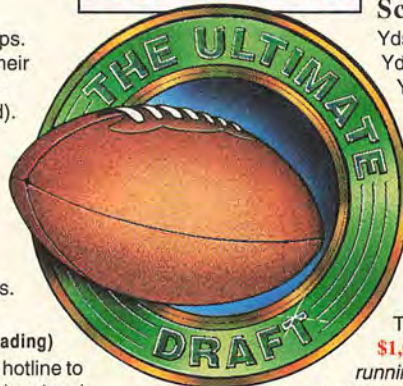
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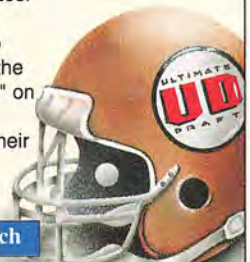
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2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Cunningham PHI 4 81		2 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Beuerlein PHO 14 239		2 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Brown HOU 11 193		2 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Faulk IND 0 0		2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Bernstine DEN 15 187	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Elway DEN 16 327		3 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Erickson TB 16 240		3 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Foster PIT 9 174		3 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Kirby MIA 16 237		3 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Brooks WAS 16 164	
4 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Favre GB 16 274		4 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Esiason NYJ 16 252		4 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Hampton NYG 12 177		4 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Metcalf CLE 16 208		4 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Brown NO 13 127	
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9 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Young SF 16 390		9 <input type="checkbox"/> P. Simms NYG 16 216		9 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Watters SF 13 225		9 <input type="checkbox"/> L. White HOU 8 115		9 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Moore PHO 15 160	
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2 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Carter MIN 16 247		2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Blades SEA 16 198		2 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Green PIT 15 187		2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Coates NE 16 167		2 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Carney SD 16 124	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Irvin DAL 16 264		3 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Clark PHO 12 169		3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Haynes NO 15 174		3 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Davis KC 16 185		3 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Christie BUF 15 105	
4 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Jeffries HOU 15 177		4 <input type="checkbox"/> I. Fryar MIA 16 195		4 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Jackson CLE 15 166		4 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Ellard LA 16 169		4 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Del Greco HOU 16 126	
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6 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Reed BUF 15 176		6 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Moore DET 15 191		6 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Moore NYJ 13 154		6 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Jackson NYG 15 155		6 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Jackie GB 16 128	
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1985 Spruce Hills,
Suite 250
Bettendorf, IA 52722

FAX: 1-403-531-5757

by midnight Sept. 3 (must include VISA / MC)

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Weekdays 10:30 am - 6:30 pm ET

No purchase necessary. If you wish to participate, void of all services send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Ultimate Draft Service Desk, P.O. Box 804, Bettendorf, IA 52722 to receive your one time selections ballot and a copy of the official contest rules. One request per person and one per envelope; must be received by Aug. 15, 1994. The Ultimate Draft is not affiliated with the National Football League. Entrants must be of legal age and a resident of U.S. or Canada. Void where prohibited by law.

Sikahema. So Centers spent his first two years covering and returning kicks, touching the ball only 33 times from scrimmage. Like Warren, he finally got his chance in 1992 and caught 50 passes. He followed that up with 66 catches last season.

Foster was primarily a blocker and inside runner at Arkansas. He was never a 1,000-yard rusher nor an all-Southwest Conference choice. He entered the draft early as a true hardship, needing the money to take care of his family. The Steelers obliged by selecting him in the fifth round. Foster played sparingly as a rookie, then became the starting halfback in 1991. But an ankle injury cost him six games and parts of two others, limiting him to less than 500 yards. When Bill Cowher became coach in 1992 and installed a power offense, Foster was off and running. He led the AFC in rushing with a club-record 1,690 yards and was in the hunt for consecutive rushing crowns when a sprained ankle ended his 1993 season at nine games and 711 yards. Despite playing just half the season, Foster was voted to his second Pro Bowl.

HIDDEN GEMS

The Redskins also found Mitchell at a small school (Southwestern Louisiana). Strike one. He was a quarterback there. Strike two. But he was an option quarterback—and what an option he was when he kept the football. Mitchell became the first player in NCAA history to pass for 5,000 yards and rush for 3,000 in a career. The fact that he ran for more touchdowns (47) than he threw (23) convinced the NFL that his future was his legs. Washington drafted Mitchell in the fifth round, and he has developed into one of the premier return men in the NFL. He has career averages of more than 20 yards on kickoffs and 10 yards on punts with three touchdowns. He also had a 100-yard rushing game in the 1992 playoffs

and another in the 1993 regular season against the Super Bowl champion Cowboys.

Don't be surprised, Mitchell cautioned. "Look at Walter Payton. He didn't go to Nebraska or Notre Dame. He went to Jackson State. There's an assumption that just because you went to a bigger school, you're a better talent. That's not necessarily so."

Like Cobb, the college career of Johnny Johnson ended prematurely. He was booted off the San Jose State team midway through the 1989 season for missing practices. Since he was a senior, pro football was his only option. Johnson may have been as gifted an athlete as there was in the 1990 draft. He started at wide receiver in 1987, then in '88 became the first player in NCAA history to rush for 1,200 yards and catch 60 passes in the same season. He also played basketball that winter and had a 23-point, 12-rebound game against UNLV. But NFL teams backed off Johnson because of disciplinary concerns before the Cardinals finally claimed him in the seventh round. Johnson promptly beat out Anthony Thompson, the Heisman Trophy runner-up and second-round pick of the Cardinals, for the starting halfback spot and joined fellow rookie Smith in the Pro Bowl. Johnson rushed for 926 yards, falling short of a 1,000-yard season because of an ankle injury that sidelined him for two games. He was traded to the Jets in 1993 and put another skill on display with his team-leading 67 receptions.

No running back in any draft had better statistics than Johnny Bailey. He rushed for an NCAA-record 6,320 yards at Texas A&I. But with his size (5-7, 175) and caliber of competition (Division II) working against him, Bailey slid to the ninth round, where the Chicago Bears claimed him. He hung on for two years in Chicago as a return man before jumping to the Cardinals in Plan B in 1992. He led the NFL in punt returns that season and was se-

lected to the Pro Bowl.

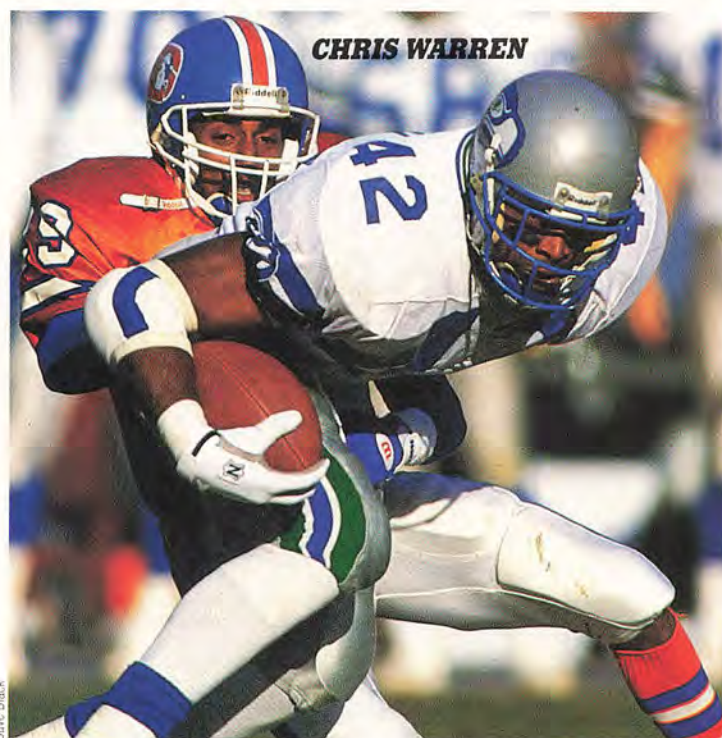
Allen was even more of a long shot than Bailey. He rushed for 1,139 yards as a college sophomore in 1988, but his numbers fell off as a junior when he suffered a knee injury at mid-season. He underwent arthroscopic surgery that December, then decided to skip his senior year because of a coaching change at Clemson. But his medical chart scared NFL teams away before the Minnesota Vikings halted his slide in the ninth round.

"I wasn't disappointed at all," Allen said. "Considering my knee, I was just happy to get drafted. It didn't matter where. There are diamonds in the rough in every draft." Allen stayed in the rough for another year when he suffered a second knee injury in training camp which sidelined him for his rookie season. He made the Vikings as a reserve in 1991 and then vaulted to prominence in 1992 with a 1,201-yard, 13-touchdown performance.

Harold Green, a second-round pick by Cincinnati, also rang up his first 1,000-yard rushing season in 1992 and was selected to the Pro Bowl. Two other second rounders, fullbacks Anthony Johnson and Hoard, have made their mark as receivers with 100-yard games. Johnson caught 55 passes for the Indianapolis Colts in 1993 and Hoard 48 for Cleveland in 1991. David Lang, another fullback in that draft, had a three-touchdown day against Atlanta in 1992. The Los Angeles Rams found him in the 12th round.

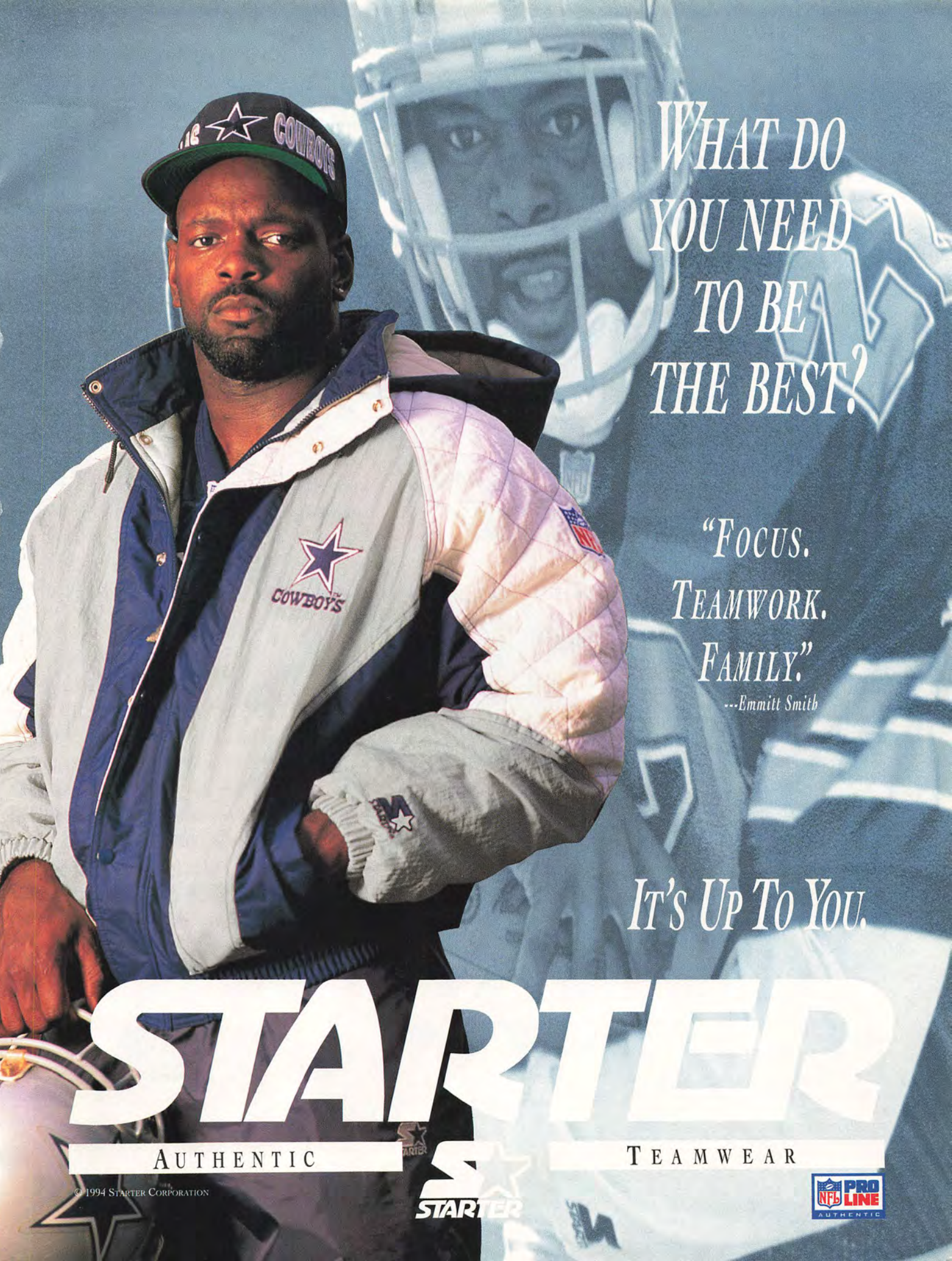
The roll call for the class of '90 is an impressive array of good and great players.

"You're looking at a list of guys that have the potential to blow this league wide open," Smith said. "Foster, Hampton, Green, Warren, Johnson, Cobb, Allen—if he can stay healthy ... Every last one of them has the potential to lead the league in rushing—and a lot of them are just now coming into their own. These guys might be around for a long time." □



Player, Drafting Team (Round)	100-Yard Games	1,000-Yard Seasons	Pro Bowls
Emmitt Smith, Dallas (1).....	25.....	3.....	4.....
Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (5).....	17.....	1.....	2.....
Rodney Hampton, NY Giants (1).....	10.....	3.....	2.....
Harold Green, Cincinnati (2).....	8.....	1.....	1.....
Johnny Johnson, Phoenix (7).....	8.....	0.....	1.....
Reggie Cobb, Tampa Bay (2).....	7.....	1.....	0.....
Chris Warren, Seattle (4).....	6.....	2.....	1.....
Terry Allen, Minnesota (9).....	4.....	1.....	0.....
Steve Broussard, Atlanta (1).....	3.....	0.....	0.....
Blair Thomas, NY Jets (1).....	2.....	0.....	0.....
Darrell Thompson, Green Bay (1)....	2.....	0.....	0.....
Dexter Carter, San Francisco (1).....	1.....	0.....	0.....
Anthony Thompson, Phoenix (2)*....	1.....	0.....	0.....
Brian Mitchell, Washington (5).....	1.....	0.....	0.....
Anthony Johnson, Indianapolis (2) ..	2**.....	0.....	0.....
Leroy Hoard, Cleveland (2).....	1**.....	0.....	0.....
Johnny Bailey, Chicago (9).....	0.....	0.....	1.....
Carwell Gardner, Buffalo (2).....	0.....	0.....	0.....
Eddie Fuller, Buffalo (4).....	0.....	0.....	0.....
Larry Centers, Phoenix (5).....	0.....	0.....	0.....
Pat Chaffey, Chicago (5).....	0.....	0.....	0.....
Marcus Wilson, LA Raiders (6).....	0.....	0.....	0.....
David Lang, LA Rams (12).....	0.....	0.....	0.....

* Did not play in 1993 ** 100-yard receiving games

A man, Emmitt Smith, is the central figure. He is wearing a Starter jacket with a white body and blue sleeves, featuring a large star logo on the chest. He also wears a black baseball cap with a star and the word 'COWBOYS'. The background is a faded image of him in a football helmet.

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---Emmitt Smith

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Game-Breakers

**These big-play performers
can change a team's
momentum in a snap**

by **DON PIERSON** CHICAGO TRIBUNE

An irony of football is the dire need for individuals in the ultimate team sport. The intricacies of 11-on-11 combat inspire clichés about teamwork. Yet to win, football teams need stars to stand out. To play the game, teams spend hours of planning and practice, carefully choreographing the assignments at each position. But to win the game, teams require those special players who do things entirely on their own, apart from game plans, things that cannot be programmed or taught. They are the game-breakers, the difference-makers. "Water moccasins," some scouts call them.

While quarterbacks are vital to any team's chances, the big-play performers make or break the quarterback with a run, catch, interception, or sack that changes the momentum of a game in a snap. They are always poised to strike. Without them, teams simply don't pose much of a threat to each other. Commonly labeled the "skill people," the best of them manage to rise to new levels separate even from their talented colleagues.

How Sterling Sharpe and Tim Brown were able to get open behind defenses to win games last season is one of the great mysteries that makes sports so fascinating. Didn't every player and fan in the stadium know exactly what those players would try to do?

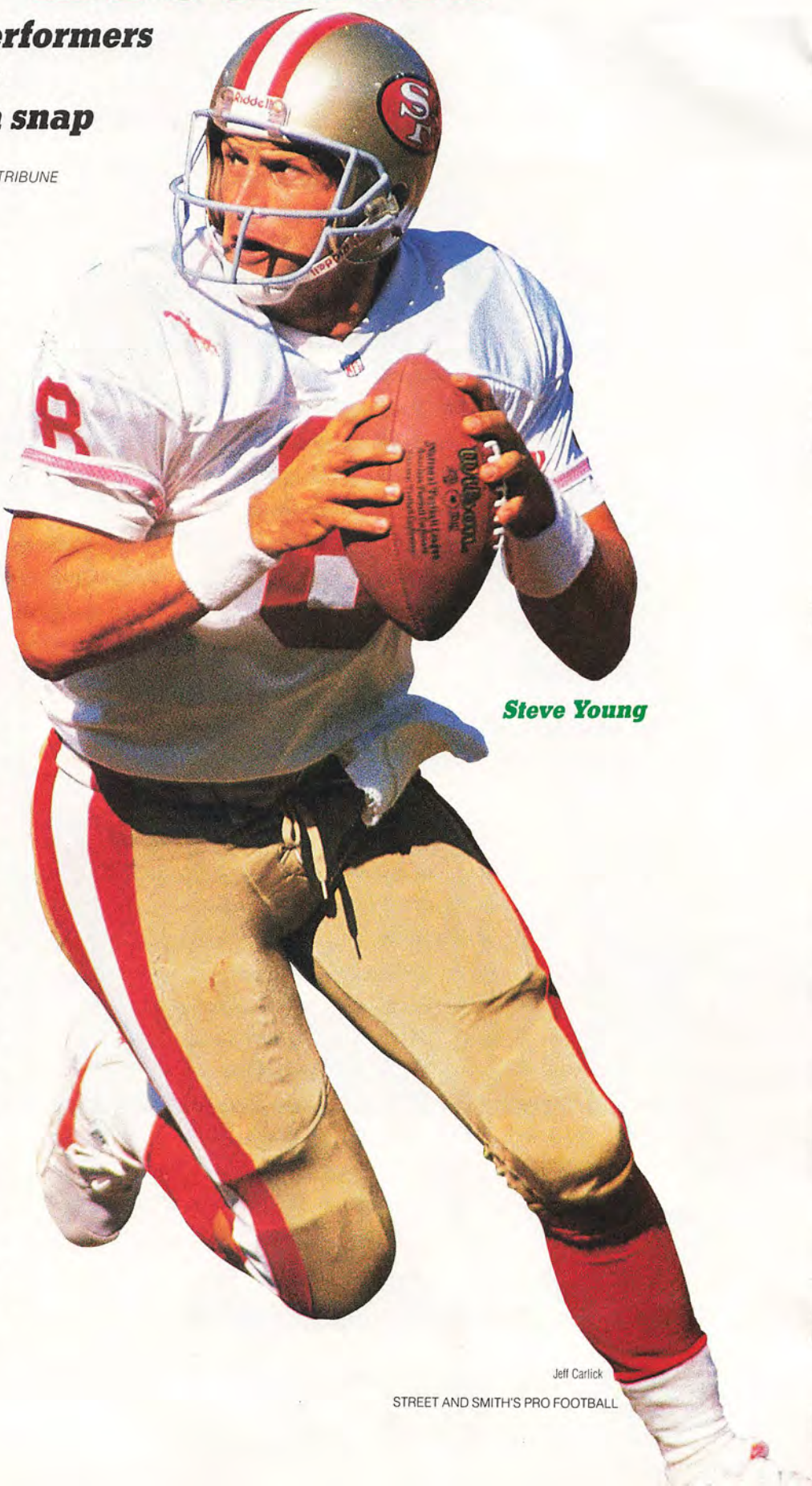
How can Eric Metcalf break not one but two punt returns to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers all by himself?

How did Reggie White stop John Elway's comeback with not one but two consecutive sacks to end a game?

How did Eric Allen return not one but two interceptions for touchdowns to beat the New Orleans Saints?

These are the players who transcend even the high expectations, who reduce the complexities of football to single acts of brilliance. Without them, Super Bowls are no more than pipe dreams. Consider the Cowboys and Bills, annual participants in the showcase event. They are similar organizations, well-crafted and coached. Both have franchise quarterbacks and solid supporting casts. And they both hitch their wagons to their stars, their big-play specialists who manage to turn good football teams into great ones.

The Cowboys thought they had all kinds of superstars in Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin, Alvin Harper, Ken Norton, Kevin Smith, and Charles Haley until Emmitt Smith was absent for a couple of games. Then they realized who the star of stars really was—one spectacular running back who did no more than carry a whole team on his sore shoulder.



Steve Young

Jeff Cartick

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

The Bills offer evidence of a team with more big-play capability than any other: Jim Kelly, Andre Reed, Thurman Thomas, Bruce Smith, Cornelius Bennett, Darryl Talley. Any of them can turn a game around at any time, positively or negatively—as Thomas learned with a fumble last time.

If teams don't have such players, they know they have to try to get them, as Denver coach Wade Phillips said after making Tim Brown an \$11 million offer the Raiders later matched. "The reason we're after Tim Brown is we can't cover him. If you can't cover him, sign him. That's our theory," said Phillips, who accomplished the task later by signing receiver Anthony Miller from the San Diego Chargers to give quarterback John Elway the most accomplished deep threat he has ever had.

Here are the top game-breakers in the NFL today and why they should wear warning labels on their jerseys: "Danger. Explosive."

ERIC METCALF

The Browns' star leads the class of players whose very position could be called "game-breaker." They are neither runner nor receiver. They are both and more. Only a select few return kickoffs and punts in addition to being the team's go-to guy on third down. Metcalf is the 'best of the bunch, with the Giants' Dave Meggett second. The Cardinals' Johnny Bailey was third last year. Broncos rookie Glyn Milburn and Redskins veteran Brian Mitchell were the only other players in the league with at least 10 rushes, receptions, kickoff returns, and punt returns.

Sterling Sharpe



Metcalf's signature game was against the Steelers last October 24 when he returned a punt 91 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter and another one 75 yards for the come-from-behind game-winning touchdown with 2:05 left. Metcalf said he "felt like Joe Carter," who had hit the home run to win the World Series for the Toronto Blue Jays the night before. "There was little time on the clock, we were down, and we needed a big play." The performance eventually cost Steelers special teams coach John Guy his job. Metcalf finished the season as the top punt returner in the AFC, the team's leading receiver, and the team's No. 2 rusher.

"They create some real matchup problems with him," said Ron Lynn, then the defensive coordinator of the Bengals, now with the Redskins. "If you put a safety or linebacker on him and they split him out, you're committing suicide. But if you put your nickel package in, you're down a run defender. I promise you, we breathe a little sigh of relief when they come out with a group that doesn't include him."

Reggie White



Sports Photo Masters, Inc.

STERLING SHARPE

For two seasons in a row, the Packers' receiver has set NFL records for receptions: 108 in '92, followed by 112 a year ago. Yet in three games last season, Sharpe got wide open to beat teams almost single-handedly, as if he had suddenly rendered himself invisible.

Against the Buccaneers, Sharpe scored four touchdowns among his 10 catches for 147 yards. Three times, he beat a sub cornerback, Roger Jones, who got little help in the Buccaneer scheme that apparently forgot to account for No. 84. More impressive were catches against the Saints and the Lions that helped bring the Packers from behind in the final minute of each game. Against the Saints, Sharpe had left the game because of blurred and double vision. He dropped a pass at the beginning of a late drive with the Packers down 17-16. But with 40 seconds left, there was Sharpe behind the secondary, catching a 54-yard pass from Brett Favre to set up the winning field goal.

"If he was still seeing double, I'm glad he caught the right ball," said Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren.

Game-Breakers

"Don't ask me how Sterling got through the seam. It was a real heart-buster," said Saints cornerback Toi Cook.

Against the Lions in the NFC wild-card round of the playoffs, there was Sharpe again, slipping behind cornerback Kevin Scott with 55 seconds left to catch a 40-yard touchdown pass for a 28-24 victory right in the Pontiac Silverdome.

"I was in shock," Scott said. "I was in awe, stunned. It was so hectic, so loud. I thought I was supposed to bump him and let him go."

ERIC ALLEN

There were 34 players who intercepted four or more passes last season. That's a little more than one per team—select company. Eagles cornerback Eric Allen returned four of his six interceptions for touchdowns. That tied the NFL record set in 1971 by Houston's Ken Houston and matched a year later by Kansas City's Jim Kearney.

For perspective, consider that there were only 36 receivers who scored more touchdowns than Allen last year. His two against the Saints came when he read the eyes of quarterback Steve Walsh on out-patterns, making his sprints to the end zone look easy. The most spectacular came against the Jets on October 3, when Allen weaved 94 yards in the fourth quarter of the Eagles' 35-30 victory. At first, Allen said he considered running out of bounds. "As I looked downfield, I saw some of the Jets almost walking off the field," he explained. "I said, 'Hey, someone has to make the play today.'"

The result not only won the game, it may have saved the career of Randall Cunningham. The Eagles' quarterback was standing near the end zone on crutches after getting knocked out of his second season in three years. He said he was so depressed he had decided to retire until Allen sped toward him and presented him the ball as he crossed the end line. "At that moment, I decided I would come back," Cunningham said.

"It was the greatest interception return I have ever seen under the circumstances," said Philadelphia coach Rich Kotite.

REGGIE WHITE

Quarterback sacks are dramatic and important, but seldom do they win games the way touchdowns or field goals do. Reggie White's successive sacks against John Elway on October 10 came as close to game-winning plays as a defender can get without touching the ball. With the Packers leading 30-27, Elway had the Broncos poised to win or at least tie in the last 1:30. Already, Elway had come back from a 30-7 deficit and had the ball at the Green Bay 43, only a few yards from a field goal. It was third down and 10 when White blew around tackle Russell Freeman to nail Elway for a loss. On fourth and 18, White chased the mobile Elway for a 14-yard loss.

"Probably the two biggest plays of my life," White admitted.

The Packers had lost three games in a row and were in danger of slipping to 1-4. White's \$17 million contract was weighing him down. He had just one sack before the end.

"He was the better man at this point in time," Freeman said. "Had him man-on-man, one-on-one—best man won."

Tim Brown

STEVE YOUNG

Ordinarily, quarterbacks are not included in the game-breaker category. They cause touchdowns but rarely score them. The distinction may be academic, because no team is consistently dangerous without a big-play quarterback. But what puts a quarterback into this game-breaker context is not the usual quarterback skills. Steve Young has led the league in passer rating for three straight years with scores over 100, something predecessor Joe Montana never did. But what makes him a game-breaker is his uncanny ability to run.

Several quarterbacks can win games by themselves by throwing touchdown passes. The Chiefs' Montana heads the list and showed the Oilers he can still do it in the playoffs. Young strikes fear in defenses on every play because of his running threat as well as his ability to direct the 49ers' vaunted passing attack. In his two full years as a starter, Young has thrown 54 touchdown passes. More impressive are his averages. His yards per pass attempt (not pass completion) were 8.62 in 1992, 8.71 in '93. Nobody else reached 8.0 in either year. Moreover, Young's rushing average was 7.1 yards in 1992, 5.9 yards in '93. And he has run the ball more than any other quarterback. Only Philadelphia's Cunningham has similar running skills. Only Denver's Elway has similar scrambling skills. On the horizon, only Seattle's Rick Mirer looks comparable to Young. Former Minnesota coach Jerry Burns had nightmares for years after Young's incredible 49-yard touchdown run with 1:58 left beat the Vikings in 1988.

TIM BROWN

It took the addition of quarterback Jeff Hostetler for the Raiders to discover Tim Brown is actually twice as good as they thought. He caught 80 passes last year, 31 more than the year before and for nearly twice the yards.

On December 5 against the Bills in Rich Stadium, Brown had caught eight passes for 146 yards late in the fourth quarter, surely enough warning for the Bills to pay attention to him as they protected their 24-19 lead. Yet there he was, making his ninth catch for a 29-yard touchdown with 4:58 to play, giving the Raiders the victory. He finished with 10 receptions for 183 yards.

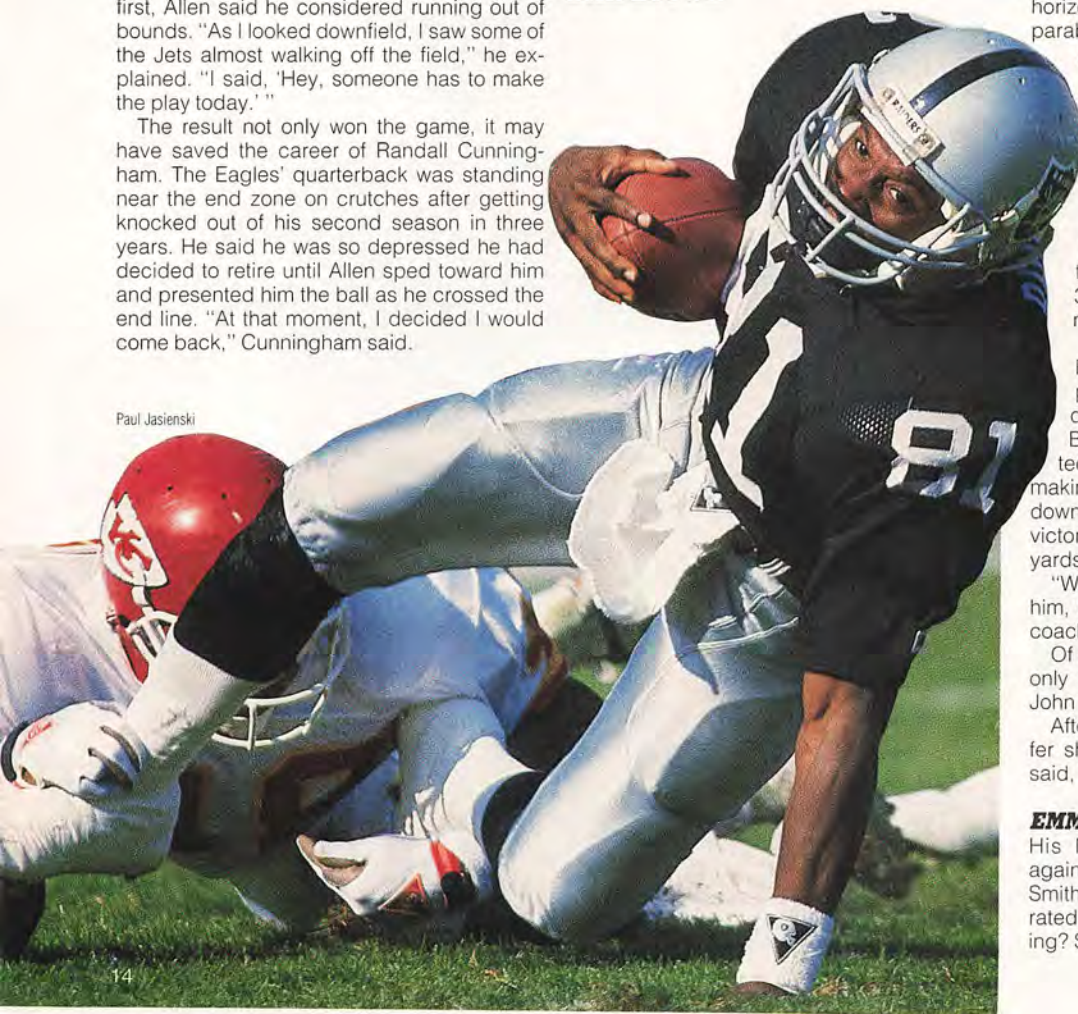
"We used a lot of different coverages on him, but Brown is a heck of a player," Bills coach Marv Levy said.

Of all the great wide receivers in the NFL, only Brown also returns punts. The 49ers' John Taylor stopped doing it two years ago.

After the Raiders matched the Broncos' offer sheet for Brown, Raiders boss Al Davis said, "They can't beat us on or off the field."

EMMITT SMITH

His MVP season reached a crescendo against the Giants on January 2 when Emmitt Smith continued to play after suffering a separated right shoulder. Why did he keep playing? Simple. The Cowboys needed him to win



Paul Jasienski



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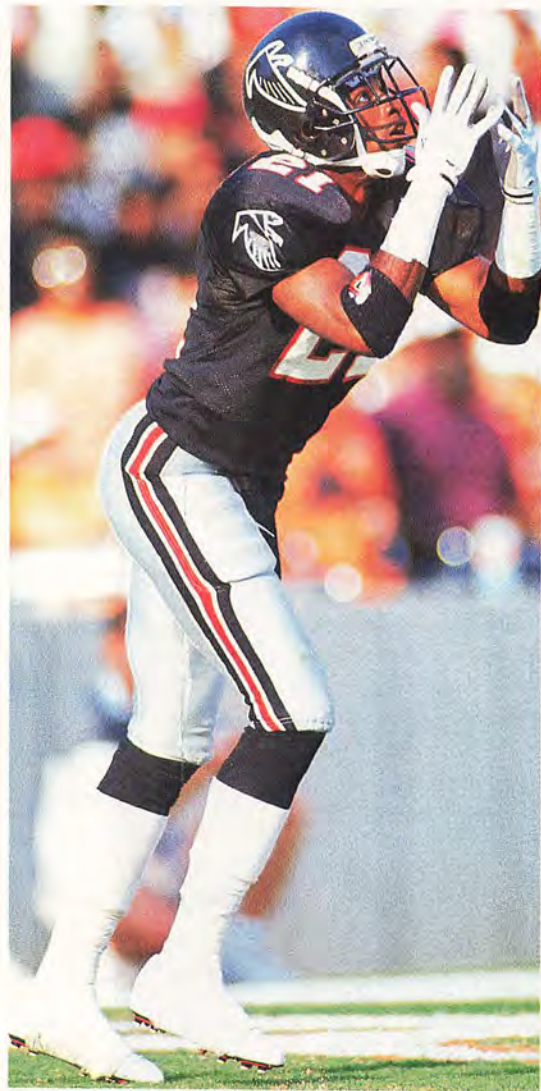


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so they could gain the playoff bye and give him the next week off. If he had rested, the Cowboys were afraid they would lose and Smith would have to come back the following week against the Vikings in the playoffs. Smith ran for 168 yards and caught 10 passes despite suffering his injury late in the first half. The Cowboys won on a field goal in overtime after Smith accounted for 40 of the 52 yards Dallas gained to set up the kick.

"I talked to him two or three times and he said, 'No, I want to finish this. I want to be the guy. Let me play until I can't play anymore,'" coach Jimmy Johnson said.



Michael Ponzini

Deion Sanders

Smith's value to the Cowboys became apparent when they lost their first two games while Smith was embroiled in a contract negotiation. His value grew all season, peaked in New York, and was capped off with an MVP performance in the Super Bowl. After winning his third consecutive rushing title, Smith celebrated his year by undergoing surgery on his shoulder. Looking back over his shoulder, Smith merely established himself as the best

player in football. "A year never ever to be forgotten by myself," Smith admitted.

"The best north-south runner I've ever seen," Johnson said.

JERRY RICE

Three more touchdowns and Jerry Rice will pass Jim Brown for the top spot in football history. For Rice, that could come in one game. The Buccaneers know. He scored four against them last November 14. Three years ago, he scored five against the Falcons. Brown scored 126 in nine years. Walter Payton scored 125 in 13 years. Rice has scored 124 in nine years and shows no signs of slowing down.

"He's a freak," said Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Floyd Peters. "Most people are blessed with speed, a little bit of height, athleticism, or great hands. But they won't have it all. These guys come down the pike once in a while, like the Jim Browns and other greats."

ROD WOODSON

Game 1 vs. the 49ers, Steelers cornerback Rod Woodson had two interceptions, eight tackles, and blocked a field goal. Game 2 vs. the Rams, Woodson had an interception, a sack, and a forced fumble. Game 3 vs. the Bengals, Woodson returned four punts for 54 yards. Game 4 vs. the Falcons, Woodson had two interceptions on Atlanta's final two drives, two punt returns for 42 yards, two kickoff returns for 62 yards, five solo tackles, and played his first down ever at wide receiver. Need more? Game 6 vs. the Saints, Woodson intercepted Wade Wilson's first pass and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown, and intercepted his fourth pass to set up another touchdown. The sign in Three Rivers Stadium: "Rod is God."

"I don't particularly care for guys who try to make big hits or big tackles," said Saints linebacker Rickey Jackson. "That ain't football. Woodson goes for the ball and he tries to create things for his team to get an advantage. The money they give him is well-deserved."

DEION SANDERS

Like Woodson, the Falcons' Deion Sanders is limited only by the number of times he gets the ball. Rivals are grateful the Steelers and the Falcons don't play these guys both ways. The Falcons used cornerback Sanders as a receiver more last season and he caught six passes for 106 yards, including a 70-yard touchdown against Dallas. In the past five seasons, the last two part-time because of baseball, Sanders has touched the football 275 times on interceptions, punt returns, kickoff returns, rushes, and receptions. His average per touch: 17.7 yards.

The Falcons were 0-4 until Sanders arrived from the Braves. They were 6-5 with him. Somehow, new coach June Jones would like to find a way to get Sanders more involved.

ANDRE RISON

As long as Andre Rison propels the Falcons on offense, Jones may not need Sanders to run or catch. Overshadowed by Rice and Sharpe, Rison takes a back seat to neither in

big-play capability. He has set the NFL record for most catches in his first three, four, and five seasons. He is one behind Rice in touchdown catches over the last three years and shared the league lead with him at 15 last season.

Rison arrived in Atlanta in 1990 in the trade with Indianapolis for the rights to quarterback Jeff George. Now the Falcons have both players and every expectation that Jones and his run-and-shoot attack will reach new heights.

JEROME BETTIS

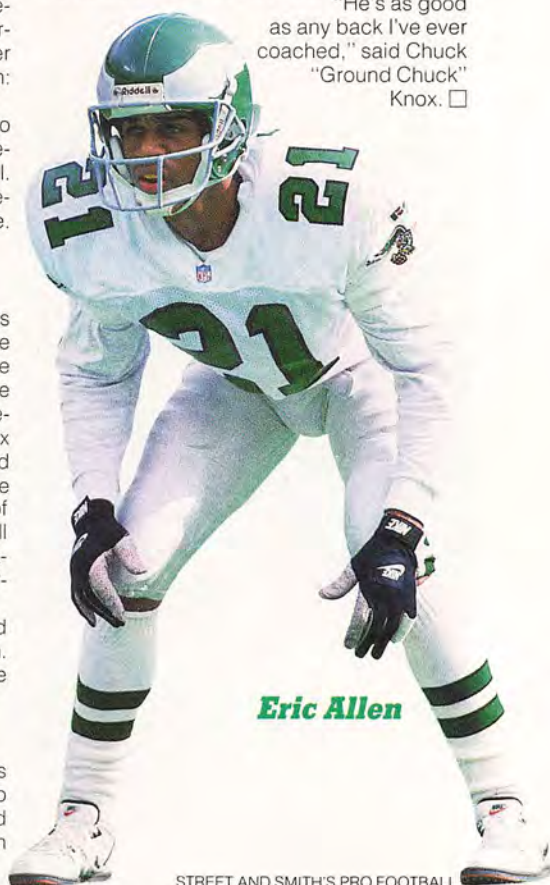
Detroit's Barry Sanders gained 1,548 yards and scored 16 touchdowns in 1991, 1,352 yards and nine touchdowns in '92, and 1,115 yards and three TDs last season. Is he in decline? Rivals hope so, but his 169-yard performance against the Packers in a playoff loss following a five-game absence with a knee injury is evidence to the contrary.

Still, football seeks new names and Jerome Bettis is the brightest. The Rams' rookie chased Emmitt Smith for the rushing title and carried a team that won only five games. At 5-11 and 245 pounds, Bettis was a classic banger, but his average of 4.9 yards per carry was third to only Smith and Houston's Gary Brown. Bettis recorded seven 100-yard games, including a 212-yard performance December 12 against New Orleans that featured a 71-yard touchdown dash around end.

"It was amazing," said Saints linebacker Sam Mills. "I don't even expect a Hall of Famer to play like that against our defense."

Over the last seven games, Bettis averaged 8.8 yards on the 36 sweeps Los Angeles ran.

"He's as good as any back I've ever coached," said Chuck "Ground Chuck" Knox. □



Eric Allen

Mitchell B. Reibel

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Select Your Dream Team

Choose one player from each of the 10 boxes. All players accumulate points for each and every game played.

Receive Your Monthly Football Package

FIRST UPDATE BY SEPT. 21. Each month you will receive a package including your player selections, total points, contest ranking, injury reports, Playoff info and trade updates. **IMPORTANT:** Your first package will also include trading hotline access #, trading details and complete contest rules.

Trade Your Players and Receive Updates

(NOT A 1-900 LINE.) Trading Players/Updates starts Thursday Sept. 22. You can make 7 trades replacing up to 3 players each trade (6 Regular Season/1 Playoffs). A traded player must be replaced by another player from the same box (A-J).

Be Your Own League Manager

(WIN UP TO \$2,000 IN CASH PRIZES.) If you want to form your own league, submit a minimum of 5 entries in one envelope. Write the name of the League Manager as indicated on the entry form. Mark each envelope ATTN: LEAGUE MANAGER. Remember, all league members qualify for all other contest prizes.

SELECT ONE (1) PLAYER FROM EACH OF THE 10 BOXES. LAST YEAR'S POINTS INDICATED.

SCORING

All players will accumulate points based on the following

OFFENCE

10 yds rushing	1pt
10 yds passing	1pt
10 yds receiving	1pt
TD's	5pts
Converts	1pt
Field goals	3pts

DEFENCE

Full sack	10pts
½ sack	5pts
Interception	10pts
Int./TD	20pts

A Quarterbacks

<input type="checkbox"/> A1 W. Moon, MIN	472
<input type="checkbox"/> A2 J. Kelly, BUF	438
<input type="checkbox"/> A3 J. Elway, DEN	543
<input type="checkbox"/> A4 S. Young, S.F.	597
<input type="checkbox"/> A5 D. Marino, MIA	166
<input type="checkbox"/> A6 B. Favre, G.B.	451
<input type="checkbox"/> A7 T. Aikman, DAL	397
<input type="checkbox"/> A8 R. Cunningham, PHI	126

B Quarterbacks

<input type="checkbox"/> B1 C. Erickson, T.B.	404
<input type="checkbox"/> B2 S. Beuerlein, PHO	400
<input type="checkbox"/> B3 P. Simms, PIT	381
<input type="checkbox"/> B4 N. O'Donnell, NYG	401
<input type="checkbox"/> B5 J. Hostetler, RAI	439
<input type="checkbox"/> B6 R. Miler, SEA	392
<input type="checkbox"/> B7 B. Hebert, U/S	421
<input type="checkbox"/> B8 B. Esiason, NYJ	438

C Runningbacks

<input type="checkbox"/> C1 T. Thomas, BUF	199
<input type="checkbox"/> C2 B. Sanders, DET	146
<input type="checkbox"/> C3 E. Smith, DAL	239
<input type="checkbox"/> C4 J. Bettis, LAR	201
<input type="checkbox"/> C5 R. Watters, S.F.	185
<input type="checkbox"/> C6 B. Foster, PIT	137
<input type="checkbox"/> C7 M. Allen, K.C.	174
<input type="checkbox"/> C8 L. Russell, N.E.	167

D Runningbacks

<input type="checkbox"/> D1 C. Warren, SEA	151
<input type="checkbox"/> D2 R. Hampton, NYG	153
<input type="checkbox"/> D3 E. Pegram, ATL	163
<input type="checkbox"/> D4 G. Brown, HOU	164
<input type="checkbox"/> D5 T. Kirby, MIA	156
<input type="checkbox"/> D6 R. Brooks, WAS	139
<input type="checkbox"/> D7 R. Moore, PHO	147
<input type="checkbox"/> D8 E. Bennett, G.B.	150

E Receivers

<input type="checkbox"/> E1 S. Sharpe, G.B.	182
<input type="checkbox"/> E2 A. Miller, S.D.	151
<input type="checkbox"/> E3 A. Rison, ATL	199
<input type="checkbox"/> E4 J. Rice, S.F.	236
<input type="checkbox"/> E5 M. Irvin, DAL	168
<input type="checkbox"/> E6 T. Brown, RAI	158
<input type="checkbox"/> E7 A. Reed, BUF	117
<input type="checkbox"/> E8 C. Carter, MIN	152

F Receivers

<input type="checkbox"/> F1 W. Davis, K.C.	125
<input type="checkbox"/> F2 J. Taylor, S.F.	120
<input type="checkbox"/> F3 H. Moore, DET	123
<input type="checkbox"/> F4 R. Langhorne, IND	118
<input type="checkbox"/> F5 I. Fryar, MIA	126
<input type="checkbox"/> F6 E. Givins, HOU	109
<input type="checkbox"/> F7 M. Jackson, CLE	115
<input type="checkbox"/> F8 R. Proehl, PHO	126

G Receivers

<input type="checkbox"/> G1 W. Slaughter, HOU	115
<input type="checkbox"/> G2 C. Williams, PHI	122
<input type="checkbox"/> G3 B. Brooks, BUF	99
<input type="checkbox"/> G4 M. Ingram, MIA	107
<input type="checkbox"/> G5 E. Martin, N.O.	110
<input type="checkbox"/> G6 A. Harper, DAL	102
<input type="checkbox"/> G7 H. Jeffries, HOU	105
<input type="checkbox"/> G8 C. Hawkins, T.B.	108

H Kickers

<input type="checkbox"/> H1 E. Murray, DAL	122
<input type="checkbox"/> H2 C. Jacke, G.B.	128
<input type="checkbox"/> H3 M. Anderson, N.O.	117
<input type="checkbox"/> H4 J. Hanson, DET	130
<input type="checkbox"/> H5 J. Carney, S.D.	124
<input type="checkbox"/> H6 J. Jaeger, RAI	132
<input type="checkbox"/> H7 A. Del Greco, HOU	126
<input type="checkbox"/> H8 G. Anderson, PIT	116

I Sacks

<input type="checkbox"/> I1 S. Fletcher, DEN	135
<input type="checkbox"/> I2 R. Jackson, N.O.	115
<input type="checkbox"/> I3 L. O'Neal, S.D.	120
<input type="checkbox"/> I4 R. Dent, CHI	135
<input type="checkbox"/> I5 B. Smith, BUF	145
<input type="checkbox"/> I6 R. White, G.B.	130
<input type="checkbox"/> I7 C. Doleman, MIN	135
<input type="checkbox"/> I8 N. Smith, K.C.	150

J Interceptions

<input type="checkbox"/> J1 E. Allen, PHI	110
<input type="checkbox"/> J2 N. Odomes, BUF	90
<input type="checkbox"/> J3 E. Robinson, SEA	110
<input type="checkbox"/> J4 R. Woodson, PIT	110
<input type="checkbox"/> J5 M. Robertson, HOU	70
<input type="checkbox"/> J6 B. Washington, NYJ	70
<input type="checkbox"/> J7 L. Butler, G.B.	70
<input type="checkbox"/> J8 K. Smith, DAL	70

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FOOTBALL'S BEST

by TOM FRIEND
ESPN

Jerry Rice doesn't want to be all alone in the end zone, so he brings the football. His touchdown fetish is second only to Jim Brown's, but with three more scores, Rice will have had more opportunities to spike than any man in pro football history.

One problem: He's anti-spike.

"I recall doing it a long time ago at Philadelphia," admitted Rice. "A defensive back had ticked me off—he had talked so much trash at me—and we'd gotten into it. I scored on him and then turned around and spiked the ball in his face, and that was the last time I did that. It

was just that I thought about it and I said to myself, 'Well, Jerry, when you cross the goal line, you have achieved what you wanted. For one thing, you have made yourself happy and done something to the defensive back, so why spike the ball in his face? You don't need to do that.'"

Rice is civilized (even irons his jeans), aerodynamic (primps in front of the mirror in full uniform before every game), and is still the San Francisco 49ers' most frequent nonstop flight to the end zone. He turns 32 in October, but he remains in a league by himself. Michael Irvin has won two straight Super Bowls, but Rice has been there, done that. Sterling Sharpe just caught 100 passes for the second year in a row, but Rice lets teammate John Taylor catch his share. And Andre Rison has had nothing back-to-back—except losing seasons. Nevertheless, they all talk behind Rice's back. Irvin, after an early victory over the 49ers last season, declared himself "King of the wideouts."

"You know, I have never said I was the greatest," Rice said. "Michael is a great receiver, a big receiver who's not afraid to go across the middle to make the catch and the big play. But you've got so many great receivers now. Yet somehow I'm always being compared to them. It's so weird, but they had started to count me out, man. I got really frustrated behind that. I've been around so long, but I don't think

my production had dropped. But the media had started saying other guys were better than me, and that surprised me. It really did. Hey, I'm still catching the ball, still making plays, still getting to the end zone, but you'll never hear me say that I'm the best, guys."

Actually, at midseason last year, Rice was doing a lot of crying for the football. It wasn't his fault; it was his quarterback's. Steve Young had cracked a throwing finger in the preseason, returned gingerly, and forgot to look for Rice first. "It's always gonna be up to my quarterback," Rice said, laughing. This was about the time when Irvin did his wise-cracking.

"It's a lot of fun," admitted Rice, alluding to the rivalry among the receivers. "because when you look at the newspaper, look at the stats every week during the season, look at how many balls Irvin caught, how many balls Rison and Sharpe caught, you get pissed off. I'm sure they feel the same way about me when I have a great game. That's just being competitive, trying to be the best at what you do. But we couldn't play as a group, on the same team. Oh, man, we would be fighting because everybody would be complaining, 'I want the ball.'"

"At the Pro Bowl two years ago, Michael Irvin was prancing up and down the sidelines and saying, 'Give me the ball. I'm the man. I led the league in receptions and yardage. Give me the goddamn ball.' On the other side, you had Gary Clark saying, 'I'm *this* wide open.' (You know, as a receiver, you're always open.) And you had Rison. It was so hilarious. I said to myself, 'There's no way we could play on the same team.'"

King of the wideouts? By the end of last season, Irvin was dethroned. Rice was not only runner-up to Emmitt Smith for the NFC Most Valuable Player Award, but with 124 touchdowns, he was creeping up on Jim Brown's all-time record (126).

What turned it around? Young's passes stung more than Joe Montana's, but Rice decided to start catching them anyway. Their quarterback/receiver relationship evolved from indifference, to polite, to sharing chips and salsa, to touchdowns almost every other possession. Rice always preferred Montana over Young (he has Montana's phone number in Kansas City memorized), but Rice and Young began bonding last season.

"For one, we'd go to this little restaurant," Rice said. "We'd watch Monday Night Football after practice and have a few beers and just talk and relax. The weirdest thing is, we don't talk football when we go out."

Before long, what went up had to come down in Rice's long fingers. He finished with 15 touchdown receptions after Young started looking for him again on slant patterns. In a five-game stretch late in the year, the 49ers averaged 38 points and 448.4 yards and Rice nearly tripled Irvin's yardage (618-209).

"People don't like me," Rice said, in reference to endorsements. "I guess because I don't have an air about myself. I don't have a dance in the end zone."

In other words, it might be time to wind up and spike one.

JERRY RICE

Rice needs three touchdowns to pass Jim Brown for the top spot in the NFL record book.

Jeff Carlick / Sports Photo Masters, Inc.

John Elway is a player willing to give more than a quarter back. The Denver Broncos were hovering near the limit of their salary cap when Elway volunteered to take a pay cut so that the team could sign a speedy wide receiver.

On the other hand, it was about time he did the team a favor. The Broncos, over the last 36 months, have gone out of their way to accommodate Elway. He and former Denver coach Dan Reeves could only agree that they disagreed in 1992, and the quarterback let owner Pat Bowlen know it was either Elway or the highway. Reeves was fired. Needing a new head coach—and a happy quarterback—Bowlen first offered the job to Elway's great good friend, Mike Shanahan, who declined, and then to another Elway sympathizer, Wade Phillips, the Broncos' defensive coordinator, who accepted. One of Phillips's first moves was to hire Elway's old Stanford quarterback coach, Jim Fassel, who imported Bill Walsh's offense and allowed Elway to do something Reeves used to snarl at: throw on first down.

"Yep, we just let him throw more," Phillips said. "Listen, when I took over, I just looked at it and said, 'What's our No. 1 asset?' Obviously, John Elway. So I said, 'How can we make him flourish?' Wasn't hard to think of throwing on first down. The average fan would've thought of that."

The red carpet kept unrolling. Right before the first snap of the 1993 season, the Broncos acquired a behemoth tackle, Gary Zimmerman, from Minnesota. A new offense, and pass protection, too? Elway was so overwhelmed, he made a bet with a Denver writer, Joe Sanchez, that he'd complete 60 percent of his passes. He ended up completing over 63 percent for 4,030 yards and 25 touchdowns.

"For the last three or four years, a lot of critics said I was overrated—I couldn't throw the touch pass, I couldn't... right on down the line," Elway said. "I thought it was a bad rap because I didn't have an opportunity to do those things. All of a sudden, last year, I had a chance to do those things again."

For all of his impressive stats, Elway saw his season end with a playoff loss to the Raiders in L.A., which sent Bowlen back to the drawing board. What else, he wondered, can I do for big John? He drew up this list:

1. Tim Brown
2. Anthony Miller
3. Haywood Jeffires

"See, it was the last essential part of the offense we hadn't addressed: One more impact wide receiver would fill it out," Bowlen explained.

So, first they offered most of the western world to Brown, a restricted free agent, but the Raiders matched that offer and retained his services. Then they offered most of the eastern world to Miller, and the Chargers, gulping, did not match it. Miller was Denver's. And if the Chargers had matched it, the Broncos would have used their bank card for Houston's Jeffires. Now, as the 1994 season unfolds, Elway has Shannon Sharpe inside, Miller outside, and a legitimate opportunity to win a Super Bowl ring.

Why are these people so good to Elway? It's not as though his three Super Bowl defeats haunt him. Buffalo spared him from that. Now that the Bills have lost four straight Bowls, no one sits on bar stools discussing Elway's failures. No one laughs at him the way they laugh at Jim ("I'm going to EuroDisney") Kelly. Still, there must be a reason why the Broncos fire coaches just for him, hire coaches just for him, sign wide receivers just for him.

"We are so lucky to have him,"

The community's lucky to have him, too, considering he was voted the NFL Man of the Year in 1992 for raising more than \$1.2 million for the prevention and treatment of child abuse. One agency apparently made more money from Elway than from the state of Colorado. Meanwhile, the community doesn't hold it against him that his late-game heroics make grown men overexcitable. Now that there's a two-point conversion, no eight-point

JOHN ELWAY

With Shannon Sharpe inside and Anthony Miller outside, Elway has an opportunity to win a Super Bowl ring.

Don Smith

said Phillips, "lucky that our superstar's a good guy, too. I mean, when we had those wide receivers in, he came down and ate lunch with them, which is a way of recruiting guys. He went out of his way to meet them, and—I'm telling you—you easily could have a quarterback who doesn't do that. And another thing, he works so hard in our offseason program. We can always call our other players in and say, 'Hey, John Elway's here, how come you're not?'"

lead will be safe from him. Like all great competitors, Elway is at his best under pressure. At times, he even provides comic relief.

"One time last year," recalled Phillips, "he came off the field right before the half and I'm telling him, 'Fifteen seconds left,' and another coach is screaming, 'Don't get sacked,' and a third's hollering, 'Throw deep,' and another, 'No time-outs left,' and finally John says, 'Well, that's all well and good, but does anybody have a play? I know all that other stuff.'"

During the last five or so years, defensive football in the NFL has evolved into a game of situational substitution. With the many new offensive wrinkles introduced around the league, defensive coaches have countered with various looks—packages that call for anywhere from three to five linemen, one to four linebackers, and five to seven backs. But in this age of specialization, Seth Joyner is special. Instead of being replaced on passing downs, he was an important part of Philadelphia's nickel coverages.

"Seth Joyner can do anything you ask of him," said Eagles defensive coordinator Bud Carson. "We ask him to do it all."

At least they used to. After eight years in Philadelphia, playing under two of the premier defensive minds in the game in head coach Buddy Ryan for the first five and Carson for the last three, Joyner signed a five-year, \$14.45 million contract in April with Arizona. There he will be reunited with new Cardinals coach Ryan as well as with former teammate Clyde Simmons.

About the styles of his two mentors, Joyner noted, "At certain times, Bud's a little more guarded. He's gonna sit back and try to catch you off balance. With Buddy, we're gonna put the quarterback out. We're going to go after [him] and... Buddy doesn't care if you know he's coming or not."

Ryan's up-front approach, both on and off the field, is something that appeals to his once and future pupil. "More than anything, guys want that honesty," said Joyner, after signing

with the Cardinals. "He's going to bring a team together. When you get that, guys will lay it on the line for you."

The line on Joyner: He is the NFL's most versatile linebacker and one of its most consistent performers, with 17 career interceptions, including at least one every year, and 100 or more tackles in each of his last six seasons. An eighth-round draft choice (UTEP)

Joyner is the NFL's most versatile linebacker and one of its most consistent performers.

by the Eagles in 1986, he first gained some recognition three years ago. In a late-season upset victory at Houston, Joyner put on an incredible show in front of a Monday night audience, recording eight tackles, forcing two fumbles and recovering two others, and sacking Warren Moon twice. He finished that season with 110 tackles, 6½ sacks, three interceptions, a half-dozen forced fumbles, and four fumble recoveries. It earned him his first Pro Bowl invitation.

Hard work has obviously paid off for the defensive stalwart, who can become defensive about the cerebral effort that goes into his game preparation.

"I put a lot of time into studying film and what our opponent is trying to do," he explained.

"When a defense is called, I can tell you where all 11 players on the field are supposed to be and what their responsibilities are. I think my intelligence, along with my ability, is what's gotten me to the point where I am.

"There's a lot of work during the offseason. It's not just a matter of lifting weights and running and then being physical. It's a very mental game, and a lot is required of a football player, particularly to be able to execute exactly what it is the coaches want to run. I've been required to play so many defenses, there's almost nothing that I haven't seen. And in order to get a good grasp on all of this, you have to study."

While the opinionated Joyner takes pride in his abilities, he doesn't mind that defenses have had to become a bit more specialized and sophisticated.

"I think it's good for the game. Everybody's talking about wanting to limit the number of substitutions. If that's the case, you could just line up in a two-back set on every down, get in a eight-man front to stop them from running the ball in obvious running situations.

In passing situations, you just double their best wide receiver and hope the other guys can cover. For that, you have a very dull game.

"When you're allowed to bring in nickel coverages and short-yardage and goal-line packages, the game is more diversified. You have to prepare for more, which means offensive and defensive coordinators can be a little more strategic and players have to be a little smarter to play the game."

So while the NFL has been trying to find ways to put more points on the board, Joyner thinks it should not try to fix what's not broken.

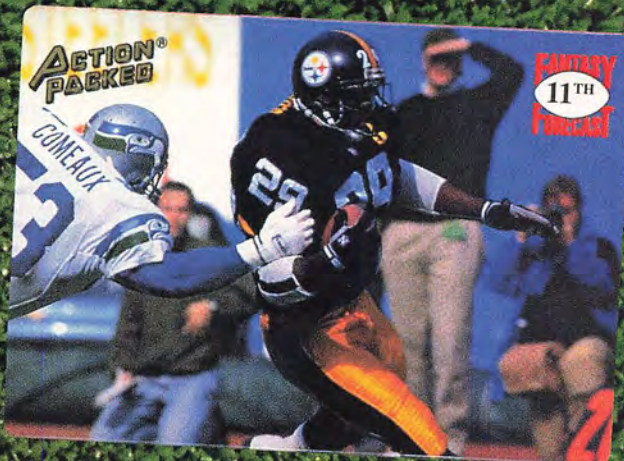
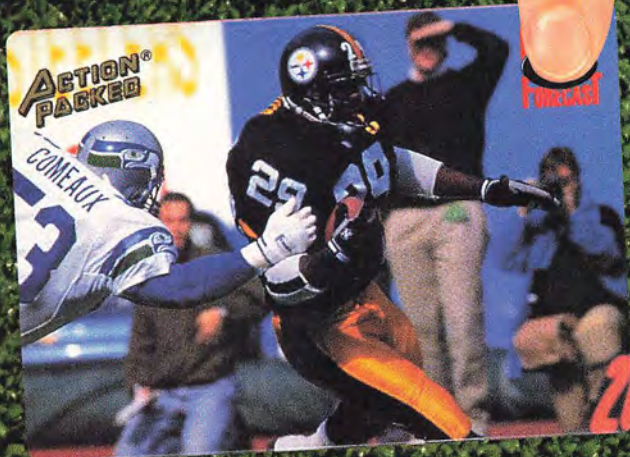
"There have been so many changes in the game to give the offense the advantage, and obviously they want excitement to keep people in the seats. But there are a lot of fans who enjoy good defensive football."

And a good defensive football player.



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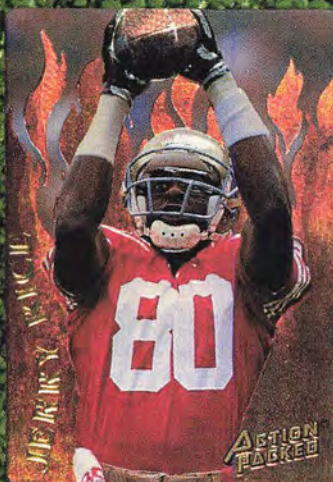
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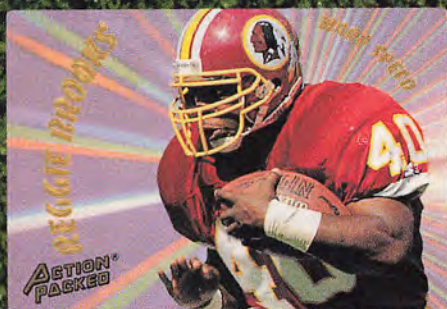
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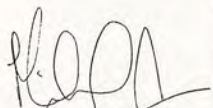
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FOOTBALL'S BEST

Last season, Rod Woodson had a career-high eight interceptions and was elected to a fifth straight Pro Bowl. The Pittsburgh Steelers' MVP, he was also named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year—the first defensive back since Seattle's Kenny Easley in 1984 to earn that honor. So how would he assess his exceptional '93 season?

"I think I played well the first seven games," the 6-2, 200-pound Woodson said, "but toward the end, I just didn't make the plays. Maybe I went back to being average. I was kind of disappointed in my play."

Such is the attitude of the unsatisfied Woodson, 29, who obviously isn't ready to rest on his laurels. Early in his career, the Steelers' first-round choice, out of Purdue, in the 1987 draft was arguably better known as one of the league's top athletes rather than one of its outstanding defenders. But since the arrival two years ago of head coach Bill Cowher and defensive coordinator Dom Capers (as well as defensive backs coach Dick LeBeau), Woodson has made 195 tackles, 12 interceptions, a half-dozen forced fumbles, and eight sacks and blossomed into one of the league's premier players. In Pittsburgh's opening game in 1992 at Houston, Woodson, playing with a partially torn calf muscle, showed what has become commonplace for him in the last two seasons. On the fourth play from scrimmage, he outfoxed Oilers wideout Ernest Givins and grabbed Warren Moon's third pass. In the fourth quarter, with his team trailing 24-22 and the Oilers inside the Steelers' 5-yard line, Woodson stopped running back Lorenzo White for no gain. On the next play, he grabbed an errant pass from a pressured Moon, ducked under the arm of receiver Haywood Jeffires, and raced 57 yards to set up a touchdown in Pittsburgh's improbable 29-24 victory.

"When Bill came in, he moved me from the right corner to the left. And since most teams are right-handed, that involved me more in the game plan," explained Woodson. "It also made me concentrate better. When we back into the nickel [coverage] or when the dime comes onto the field, that gets me a little closer to the football, a little more into the action, and I'm able to make more plays."

What an understatement. Last fall, in a meeting with the 5-0 Saints, Woodson set the tone early for what would be New Orleans's first loss. He picked off a deflected pass in the first quarter and returned it 63 yards for a touchdown; minutes later he made a diving interception to set up another score as the Steelers rolled to a resounding 37-14 victory.

Later in the season, in a crucial Monday night tilt at Miami, Woodson struck again. Near the end of the first half, Dolphins running back Terry Kirby took a short pass from quarterback Steve DeBerg, broke a couple of tackles, and headed for a 53-yard touchdown. But Woodson appeared out of nowhere to overtake the rookie and strip him of the ball, which Steeler teammate Carnell Lake recovered at the 2-yard line. Later, with under 15 seconds to play, Woodson picked off a DeBerg pass to preserve Pittsburgh's 21-20 triumph.

Taking away the football has been a big part of the Pittsburgh success story under

Cowher and Capers. In their last 32 regular-season games, the Steelers have 81 takeaways, with 65 coming in 20 victories.

"It's really ingrained from day one in our first minicamp, and it's something we practice every day," said Woodson, who had 13 of those takeaways. "We practice stripping the ball, we practice going for the ball. You look at the good defenses that play well year in and year out, they're getting the turnovers. Our main objective is to be the lowest-scoring defense in the league and, after that, to have a better margin of turnovers. If we can do that, we're going to produce some wins."

While Woodson speaks modestly of his own talents, it doesn't stop others from singing his praises. One of his big-

Woodson is the first back since Kenny Easley in 1984 to be named Defensive Player of the Year.

gest admirers is Steelers Hall of Fame cornerback Mel Blount, who has said that Woodson is a better player than he was at the same stage in his career.

"It's definitely an honor when Mel speaks that highly of me," said Woodson. "I don't ever think there'll be a corner of his stature. To say that I'm as good or better than he was at this time... I can't see it. If you go out there and play hard and play with your head for 16 games, good things will come to you. Right now, that's what I'm trying to do. It's the only way I know how to play."

But do statements such as Blount's put extra pressure on the all-pro?

"No. I never think about different comments from people," said Woodson, "because you can get good comments and bad. The pressure comes from yourself, and I try not to put any undo pressure on myself. I just go out there and play football and be relaxed. When you do that, that's when you play your best."

ROD WOODSON



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ALL NEW LOGO ATHLETIC LIGHTWEIGHT SHARKTOOTH JACKET

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Available in August

Available for: 'Cowboys, 'Cardinals, 'Packers, 'Bucs, 'Colts, 'Raiders, 'Dolphins, 'Giants, 'Chiefs, 'Panthers, 'Jaguars, 'Broncos, 'Bears, 'Bills, 'Browns, 'Eagles, '49ers, 'Rams, 'Redskins, 'Lions, 'Steelers, 'Vikings. NBA teams available: 'Hornets, 'Magic, 'SuperSonics, 'Warriors, 'Bulls. NHL teams available: 'Blackhawks, 'Ducks, 'Devils, 'Penguins, 'Redwings, 'Bruins. COLLEGE teams: 'Notre Dame, Michigan, Indiana, Fla St, North Carolina



Back on Track

The Dallas Cowboys' Emmitt Smith is in a league of his own.

by TIM COWLISHAW

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

● With the 8,800 yards he gained in high school, with the national records he set while at the University of Florida, with his back-to-back NFL rushing titles and Super Bowl ring he had earned by the age of 23, Emmitt Smith had done it all. Or so it seemed.

Certainly there were no indications that all he had accomplished in his first three professional seasons were going to pale in comparison to what would take place in 1993. Smith had broken Tony Dorsett's team record by running for 1,713 yards in 1992 and became the first NFL rushing champion to compete in a Super Bowl. He was the first player to win back-to-back rushing titles since Eric Dickerson in 1983-84, the first to rush for 1,500 yards in consecutive seasons since Walter Payton in 1984-85. The list went on and on.

Then came the '93 season, when Smith proved that there is one level of great NFL backs that includes Detroit's Barry Sanders and Buffalo's Thurman Thomas and another level, slightly higher, where he resides. A contract dispute with team owner Jerry Jones led Smith to miss the first two games of the '93 season (against Washington and Buffalo), both of which the Cowboys lost. On September 16, Jones signed Smith to a four-year, \$13.6 million contract that made him the highest paid running back in NFL history. The pact included \$6 million up front. Three months later, Jones would recognize that he had gotten an incredible bargain.

Smith didn't play until the second half of Dallas's third game, in Phoenix, but he showed some familiar footwork in rushing eight times for 45 yards. Criticized by the coaches for not being in better shape the next week, Smith ran 13 times for 71 yards against Green Bay. The season was one quarter old and Smith had 116 rushing yards. His vow to do everything possible to win a third straight rushing title sounded hollow. But in Game 7, Smith danced in the Philadelphia rain for 237 yards, breaking another Dorsett team record by 31 yards. It gave the Cowboys their fifth straight victory and elevated him from 17th to

continued on page 28

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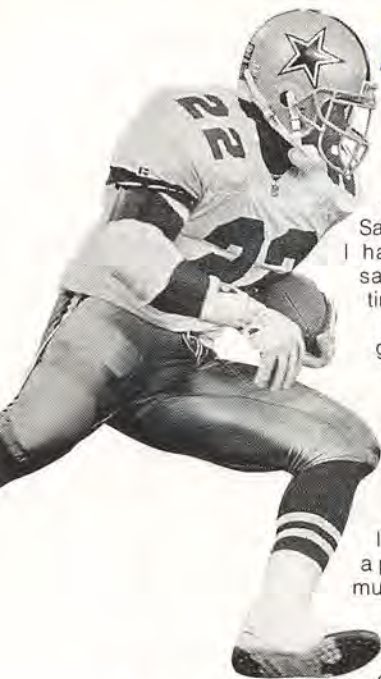
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Back on Track

sixth in the rushing race, 241 yards behind Sanders. "I still think I have a chance," said Smith at the time. "If anyone's going to do it, it's going to be me."

But there would be more obstacles. After carrying just once in Atlanta for one yard on November 21, he left the game with a pulled quadriceps muscle. Forced to play again just four days later because of the Cowboys' tradi-

tional Thanksgiving game, Smith ran 16 times for 51 yards in the snow in a strange loss to Miami. With five games left, Smith trailed Sanders by 317 yards. Sanders, however, got hurt and Smith started climbing. Another huge game against Philadelphia, for 172 yards, put Smith back on track. He gained 104 yards against Minnesota, 91 against the New York Jets, and 153 against Washington to trail Jerome Bettis of the Rams by 35 yards going into the season finale. Bettis, the outstanding rookie from Notre Dame, had two advantages. One, he was playing in a late game against Chicago and thus would know before taking the field how many yards Smith had gained in his final effort. Two, L.A. was playing a meaningless game while Dallas was competing for the NFC East title against New York in Giants Stadium. The Cowboys had to focus on winning the game, not a rushing crown.

As it turned out, those two happened to be one and the same. Smith again defied the odds by doing something no one had ever seen. Tackled after a long open-field run by Greg Jackson, Smith separated his left shoulder as he slammed into the turf. That could have been the end of his season, and it could have meant a wild-card route for Dallas.

"I told him to pack it in," Cowboys running backs coach Joe Brodsky said. "Jimmy [Johnson] didn't want him in there either. But that's Emmitt. He's a little foolhardy, but he loves to compete."

Smith finished with 32 carries for 168 yards. He carried the ball 13 times after separating his shoulder. He inspired John Madden to leave the broadcast booth and congratulate him in the locker room after the remarkable performance. In addition to all that it did for Dallas in paving the road toward a second straight Super Bowl, the effort allowed Smith to beat Bettis by 57 yards to win a third straight rushing title, something only Jim Brown, Earl Campbell, and Steve Van Buren ever did. Even after winning the Super Bowl and earning the Most Valuable Player award in that game to go with his regular season MVP honor, it was the game against the Giants that was still being talked about.

"I can't describe it. You'd have to be in my shoes to know what I was going through," Smith said. "I can't say I wouldn't go through it again. In the same circumstances, I'd probably try to play the game again."

It was that kind of effort that allowed Smith to overcome missing the first two games and still enjoy his best year ever. "Winning the Super Bowl made the whole season worthwhile," he said. "It would have been disappointing to gain all the yards, to win my third rushing title, to be the MVP, to get the Pro Bowl honors again, and not win it all. The Super Bowl makes my whole season complete. Really, it was a miracle season."

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

In his five seasons as the Cowboys' head coach, Jimmy Johnson hated to hear the word "luck." Occasionally, he would acknowledge that some turn of events had been "fortunate" for the Cowboys. Lucky? Never. Johnson engineered more than 50 trades, but it was a series of moves he failed to make that led to one that put Smith on the Cowboys' roster. For Johnson and Dallas, those failures must now be regarded as most fortunate.

After the 1-15 misery of 1989, Johnson insisted he would focus on defense in the draft. The Cowboys did not have the first overall pick because of their selection of Steve Walsh in the 1989 supplemental draft. But they were well-stocked with picks in the early rounds thanks to the deal that sent Herschel Walker to Minnesota. The Cowboys' target was Baylor linebacker James Francis. After him, they liked North Carolina State defensive end Ray Agnew and Houston linebacker Lamar Lathon. Anything to lend a presence and some pass rush to the defensive front was the primary goal.

Johnson failed in repeated attempts to trade up. Had Francis lasted until the 13th slot, the Cowboys would have traded the 21st pick and later choices to Kansas City. Instead, Francis went 12th to Cincinnati. So the Cowboys sat back and waited. After 16 picks had been made, Johnson called Pittsburgh and made a deal. The Steelers would get the Cowboys' No. 1 (the 21st selection) and a third-round choice obtained from San Francisco, picks that Pittsburgh would use on tight end Eric Green and defensive tackle Craig Veasey. The Cowboys (who had traded for running back Terrence Flagler the previous week) would take a player they never dreamed would still be available by the 17th pick: Emmitt Smith.

Miami had played Florida in 1987, when Smith was a freshman. So Johnson, the Hurricanes' coach at the time, knew firsthand that Smith's 5-10, 195-pound frame and 4.6 speed, however unremarkable in the computer printouts, were more impressive on the field when he was breaking tackles. Still, Brodsky, who had held a personal workout with Smith, admitted he did not envision that the Cowboys were selecting a three-time rushing champion.

"Of course not. I'm no genius," Brodsky said. "But if you [could] look past the size, look past the fact that he's not as fast running straight down a track as you'd like a guy to be

if he's going to take you to a Super Bowl...if you could do that, you'd see a complete football player with magnificent strength in his size and hips. I don't see the vision that he says he has because he says he sees sideline to sideline. That's hard. But he has never done anything other than win and be productive."

Smith arrived in Dallas at a time when the team's fans were starved for new heroes. (They had Troy Aikman, but he was coming off a battered and bruised rookie season in which the club was 0-11 in his starts.) There were instant comparisons to Dorsett because of similarities in size—even if Dorsett was faster and Smith was stronger—and huge college rushing totals. Smith was confident but humble. "I have high goals," he said. "I want to be the running back Dallas wants me to be."

Four years later, Smith has reached the end zone 53 times in the regular season. Only San Francisco's Jerry Rice has been there more often (54). Over the last three years, Smith leads the NFL in scoring and leads the league in rushing by more than 500 yards. His 5.3-yard average in 1993 was the highest for a league leader since Dickerson's 5.6 in 1984 and the second-highest in 15 years. Dorsett has all but acknowledged that on the Cowboys' list of great running backs, he ranks No. 2. "He'll not only break my records, but a lot of records in the NFL," said Dorsett. "The only one of my records he can't get is the longest run: the 99-yarder. I know he won't break it. But he sure might tie it."

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Then there's the future. At age 24, when most people are trying to determine if their college major was really such a good idea, Smith sits atop the NFL rushing world. Since leaving Florida a year early, he has run for 5,699 yards. If he wins a fourth straight rushing title in 1994, he will become just the second to do it, joining Cleveland's Jim Brown, who won five straight (1957-61).

At Smith's current pace, he will cross the 10,000-yard barrier (only eight backs have done that) at age 27. There is a question of whether Walter Payton's all-time record is actually within reach. Smith is averaging 92 yards per game in his four years. If he maintains that pace and does not miss a game, he will be just over 16,000 yards—a little more than 700 behind Payton—after the year 2000. That's seven more years of carrying a heavy load. Smith thinks it can be done, believes a 2,000-yard season is possible. And who's going to argue with him now?

"I have a goal of reaching 2,000 yards. Every year there's a different challenge. I have two Super Bowl rings, but I'd like to have three or four more. I'm going to challenge myself to do better than I've done so far," he said.

Smith has overcome all the obstacles in his path to date. This fall he will play for a new coordinator (Ernie Zampese) and a new head coach (Barry Switzer), neither of whom plans to make significant changes in the Cowboys' offense. Smith isn't worried about the future under the new coaches. "Some kind of way, I know we're going to run the football," he said.

And no one runs it quite like Smith. □



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Free-Agency Scorecard

The NFL's biggest winners and losers

by **LARRY FELSER**

BUFFALO NEWS

● The Buffalo Bills had just absorbed a one-two combination punch from the Seattle Seahawks, losing Pro Bowl cornerback Nate Odomes and Pro Bowl offensive tackle Howard Ballard within hours of one another late in February. Marv Levy, Buffalo's coach, assessed the damage: "This will hurt us a lot more than it will help Seattle."

So far, that's the story of free agency. It hasn't been an elixir for many NFL teams, but it has virtually destroyed or heavily damaged several. There are tales of success, though.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARC

The Los Angeles Raiders were rescued from despair when they reached agreement with the Giants' veteran quarterback Jeff Hostetler late in the 1993 signing period. The Raiders had drifted from quarterback to quarterback, from the plummeting Jay Schroeder to the undisciplined Todd Marinovich. At the end of the 1992 season they were rudderless.

Hostetler changed that—slowly. The Raiders had to learn how to protect a quarterback who liked to move around a lot, and Hostetler had to grow accustomed to the philosophy of a vertical passing game after years of conservatism with the Giants. Finally, in the stretch run last fall, Hostetler grew comfortable enough to take over the team. Wide receiver Tim Brown had been a wasted talent, tucked away and not fully utilized. Hostetler insisted upon using Brown, and in the last third of the season the ex-Heisman Trophy winner from Notre Dame became a superstar. It converted a team that failed to make the playoffs into a team that was 30 minutes away from ending Buffalo's dynasty in the AFC. The irony is that Brown himself became a free agent after the season ended.

That is part of the reality of NFL free agency. Even the status of a desirable star can change quickly. Last year the Indianapolis Colts made linebacker Duane Bickett their franchise player, a move that protected him from most predators. This year the Colts released Bickett in a move to get under the new salary cap.

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

Most of the free agency headlines are occupied by the big-name signees, such as Reggie White, Will Wolford, Ronnie Lott, and Gary Clark. But a division championship changed hands last season with mass movement in two lines. It happened in the NFC Central. The defending champion Minnesota Vikings lost three offensive linemen: Keith Lowdermilk, Brian Habib, and Gary Zimmerman. The Detroit Lions signed three offensive linemen: Bill Fralic, David Richards, and David Lutz. The Lions won the division and Minnesota slipped to second. When Barry Sanders, Detroit's great running back, was hurt late in the season, the offense was able to function with strangers replacing Sanders because the three new linemen kept the ground game run-

**Free agent
Anthony Miller
made the
biggest catch
of his career when
he reeled in a
\$10.5 million contract
from the Denver Broncos**

Anthony Miller

ning as the Lions won three of their last four. Conversely, with its offensive line in a jumble, Minnesota scored 97 fewer points than its 1992 team and won two fewer games.

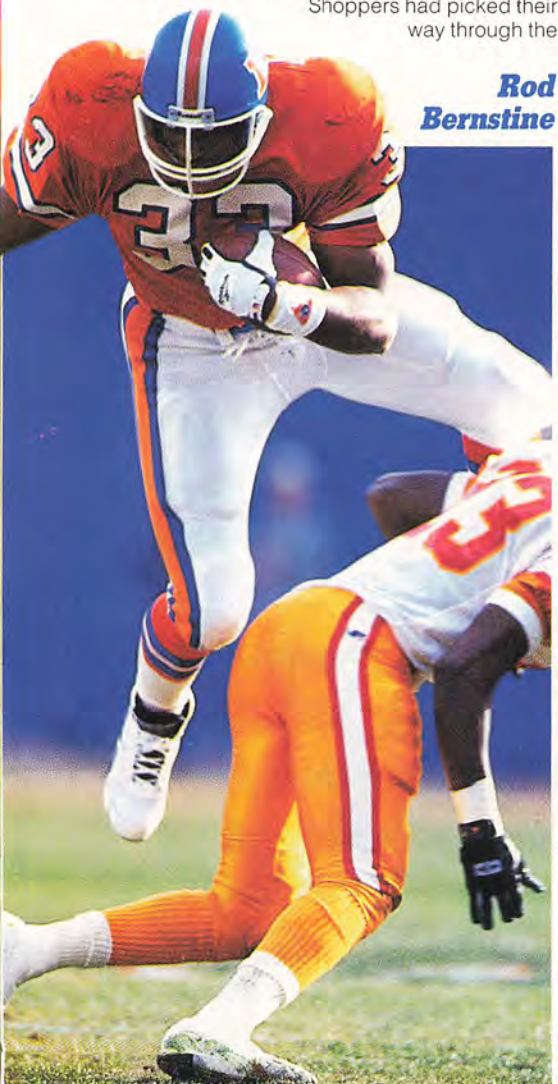
Denver was among the most aggressive teams in signing free agents. That and the switch to a San Francisco-style attack meant an increase of seven points per game in '93 as the Broncos rose from ninth in AFC scoring to first. Surprisingly, their won-lost record improved only slightly, from 8-8 in 1992 to 9-7 last season.

Free agency virtually destroyed two powers in the NFC East, Philadelphia and Washington. After White signed with Green Bay, full-back Keith Byars and tackle Ron Heller fled to Miami to rejoin ex-teammate Keith Jackson, who was in the forefront of free agency the season before due to a successful court battle. The Eagles were dead when quarterback Randall Cunningham got hurt, but their playoff chances probably dissolved long before that because of the free-agent losses. The Redskins made "We Are Family" their theme in the good years, but the family was deserted by Clark, linebacker Wilber Marshall, cornerback Martin Mayhew, and defensive linemen Fred Stokes and Jumpy Geathers.

In 1992, San Diego won its first division championship in the AFC West in 14 years. Gouged by free-agent losses, the Chargers slipped right out of the playoffs last season.

Shoppers had picked their way through the

**Rod
Bernstine**



Dave Black

Charger roster, signing running back Rod Bernstine, offensive lineman David Richards, linebackers Henry Rolling and Dennis Murphy, as well as Tony Blaylock, a cornerback whose value as a backup was underlined when veteran Gill Byrd was lost for the season before opening day.

DEALING WITH FREE AGENCY

Some teams seemed ill-equipped to deal with free agency. New Orleans was among them. The Saints were one of the strongest NFL teams in 1992, but they crashed over the league's new ways of doing business. They bungled a new contract for quarterback Bobby Hebert and then saw him sign with Atlanta, where he became one of the most successful free agents. To replace him, they entered the market themselves and stumbled, signing Wade Wilson, a career backup. Wilson was O.K. at the start, as the Saints won their first five games, but then he found his level and the Saints fell below their own, losing eight of their last 11 games and missing the playoffs. The unkindest cut may have been the case of

Jeff Hostetler



Hector Sierra

guard Jim Dombrowski, whom the Saints had made one of the highest paid offensive linemen in the league and then watched him sit on the bench as journeyman Chris Port did the playing. After the season, offensive line coach Paul Boudreau became the first assistant fired by Jim Mora since he came to New Orleans.

Pittsburgh couldn't seem to cope with the concept of the "qualifying offer," the contract proposal a team must make to its own free agents in order to protect its interests. A high qualifying offer for an important player at least assures that if another team does sign him, the team that loses the player will receive reasonable compensation, i.e., first- and third-round draft choices for a player offered a contract in the \$800,000 range, in return.

Neil O'Donnell, in his first season as Pittsburgh's starting quarterback, led the team to the AFC Central title in '92. Yet after the season, when O'Donnell, a fourth-year pro, be-

came a free agent, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed him to a rich offer sheet. Since O'Donnell had less than five years' experience, he was a restricted free agent, which meant that the Steelers had to make a qualifying offer to him at a mandated minimum or they would receive no compensation if they lost him. The Steelers had to meet the Bucs' price in order to keep him, which they did. They ended up paying O'Donnell more than they wanted or probably needed to.

Pittsburgh also had lost two starting linebackers, Jerroll Williams and Hardy Nickerson. Williams, signed by San Diego, was injured and hardly played, but Nickerson, signed by Tampa Bay, became the most productive defensive free agent of all. In order to fill the linebacker vacancies, the Steelers signed Rams veteran Kevin Greene, who had a good year, albeit not as good as Nickerson's.

There seemed a pattern of some predator teams targeting one particular team to raid. The Bucs' target was Pittsburgh. The Dolphins signed so many Philadelphia players—Byars, Heller, nose tackle Mike Golic, as well as Jackson in the special free-agency case from 1992—that fans started calling them the "Miami Eagles." The pattern continued this spring when Seattle plucked Odomes and Ballard from Buffalo in one weekend. Signing free agents in numbers was no guarantee of success. The Dolphins had picked up Giants wide receiver Mark Ingram a year ago, but that didn't prevent them from losing their last five games and slipping from the best record in the league right out of the playoffs.

Carlton Bailey



Mitchell B. Reibel

SIGNING IN

Free agents with big reputations brought no guarantees with them, either. The New York Jets thought they had turned around their fortunes when they signed safety Ronnie Lott, a future Hall of Famer, and Giants defensive lineman Leonard Marshall last spring, but neither played up to his reputation down the stretch, and that contributed to the dismissal of coach Bruce Coslet.

Some teams, however, improved themselves with judicious signings. One of the best returns came in Kansas City, where Marcus Allen, placed in football purgatory for four years by Al Davis, the Raiders' svengali with whom he feuded, rediscovered part of his prime, helped push the Chiefs to the AFC championship game, and ended up in the Pro Bowl. Buffalo needed someone to take the place of James Lofton, so it signed Indianapolis veteran Bill Brooks. He finished with 60 catches, just three fewer than Gary Clark, a more expensive free agent Phoenix had signed from Washington. Brooks, in fact, caught one more touchdown pass than Clark (5-4). The New York Giants released linebackers Carl Banks and Pepper Johnson and replaced them with Michael Brooks and Carlton Bailey, whose play was a key to the Giants' success. Few of last year's free agents, however, had exceptional seasons. Only five of them were voted into the Pro Bowl. Both AFC picks—Allen and Byars—were on offense. All three NFC selections—White, Nickerson, and Tim McDonald, the safety San Francisco signed from Phoenix—were on defense.

The byproduct of free agency was an increased number of trades. That's part of the reason Joe Montana ended up in Kansas City and Boomer Esiason became the Jets' quarterback. Teams were eager to get something in return for players who were no longer useful to them or who were a season away from selling themselves in the open market. Minnesota, faced with the imminent departure of Pro Bowl lineman Gary Zimmerman in 1994, traded him to Denver a year early. The key word in the new way of doing business is "judgment." Teams are confronted more often by which players to pursue and which of their own players to keep. The latter task is complicated by

Neil O'Donnell



Al Messerschmidt

the question "How much are we willing to pay to keep him?"

"In the long run," said commissioner Paul Tagliabue, "good organizations will win and weak organizations will lose." John Butler, Buffalo's general manager, puts it less tactfully: "It's the same as the draft. Some teams, you could give them 18 draft choices and they would still screw it up."

SALARY CAP

They call it "Salary Cap 101." It's the second stage of free agency, which is forcing NFL general managers, most of whom were trained as football scouts, to be mathematicians and financiers. Not even the people who formulated it can keep the salary cap straight. An audit of NFL books in late March by one of the top accounting firms "found" \$400,000 for each team, pushing the cap from \$33.8 million to \$34.2 million. A month later, another \$400,000 was discovered, pushing the final cap to \$34.6 million.

In human terms it's like this: Rich Camarillo, the Pro Bowl punter who averaged 43.7 yards per kick last season, was released by Phoenix after the Cardinals signed Jeff Feagles, who averaged almost four yards less per kick for Philadelphia. The reason was simple: Feagles came cheaper.

"Free agency," said George Young, the New York Giants' general manager, "is going to eliminate the NFL's middle class."

It also causes a chain reaction of events. Consider the daisy chain that happened among NFL quarterbacks last winter. The Chicago Bears signed Erik Kramer away from Detroit, which in turn plucked Scott Mitchell, whom Don Shula had carefully nurtured in Miami. Chicago, with Kramer installed as its starter, released Jim Harbaugh. Miami then

Gary Zimmerman



Jeff Carlisle

went searching for a backup to Dan Marino, who was gingerly returning to the lineup after suffering a torn Achilles' tendon last season, and found Bernie Kosar. The Los Angeles Rams signed Chris Miller from Atlanta, then traded Jim Everett to New Orleans. Subsequently the Saints released their expensive 1993 free agent, Wade Wilson. Atlanta traded with Indianapolis for Jeff George, which put in jeopardy Bobby Herbert, who was one of the more successful free agents last year when he was signed from New Orleans to replace the injured Miller.

It's dizzying.

Denver fired off its second rocket in free agency. "We gave John Elway two new running backs and three new offensive linemen to protect him last year," said Bronco coach Wade Phillips. "Now we have Anthony Miller

to play catch with him." The Broncos chased a top receiver with Plan A and options B, C, and D. They signed Tim Brown of the Raiders to an expensive offer sheet that included a restrictive no-trade clause. Because Brown was labeled a transition player, the Raiders were able to match the Denver offer and keep him. Then the Broncos went to option B, Miller, San Diego's star receiver. The Chargers declined to match Denver's offer, but if they had matched it, Denver owner Pat Bowlen was prepared to pursue Haywood Jeffries of Houston (option C), and if unsuccessful with him, to chase Ricky Sanders of Washington (option D). Bowlen wound up shifting gears and trading for Mike Pritchard of Atlanta to team with Miller.

In Brown's case, Denver had a dual strategy. If it couldn't acquire him, at least it pushed the Raiders into spending so much money to keep him that they wouldn't have enough to sign the topflight running back they need. The strategy is understandable since the Raiders beat Denver three times last year. The last one eliminated the Broncos from the playoffs.

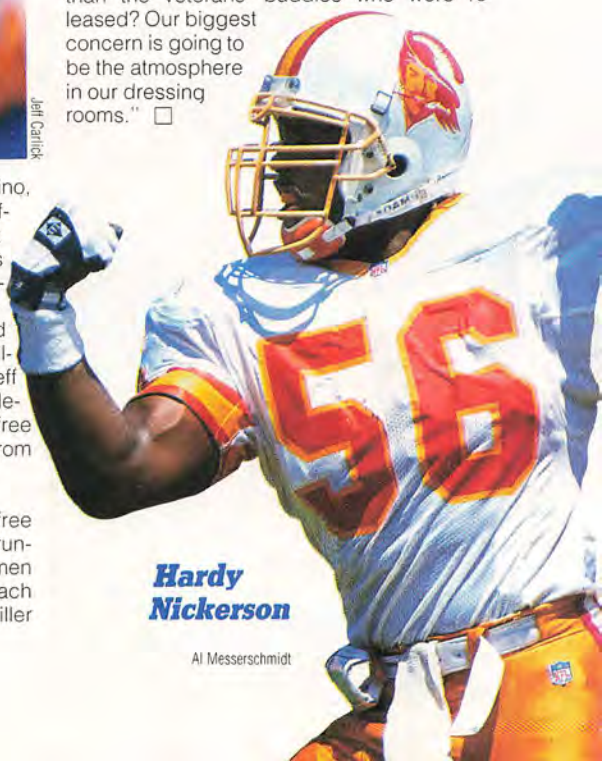
"We'll still beat them," snarled Raiders owner Al Davis. "On the field and off."

The New England Patriots used a similar tactic when they signed Miami place-kicker Pete Stoyanovich. The Dolphins matched the offer, but in doing so, they saw their fund to sign other free agents reduced.

The salary cap put a new complexion on NFL free agency, and many of the players didn't like it. "The owners love it, and they should," said Pittsburgh cornerback Rod Woodson. "Now they can say, 'Hey, we can't pay you because the salary cap you agreed to says we can't.' The cap screws the players."

The coaches take a different view.

"The most important element of what happened since last season is dynamics," said Kansas City's Marty Schottenheimer. "By that I mean what the salary cap has done. How is the player who has to take a big pay cut in order to remain on the team going to interact with the \$3 million player in the next locker? How are the veterans going to feel toward the rookies who are going to make the team, some of them because they come cheaper than the veterans' buddies who were released? Our biggest concern is going to be the atmosphere in our dressing rooms." □



Hardy Nickerson

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 Dave Krieg.....Detroit.....Kansas City
 Chris Miller.....L.A. Rams.....Atlanta
 Scott Mitchell.....Detroit.....Miami
 Rodney Peete.....Dallas.....Detroit
 Mark Rypien.....Cleveland.....Washington
 Sean Salisbury.....Houston.....Minnesota
 Jack Trudeau.....N.Y. Jets.....Indianapolis
 Steve Walsh.....Chicago.....New Orleans

Running Back

Reggie Cobb.....Green Bay.....Tampa Bay
 Merrill Hoge.....Chicago.....Pittsburgh
 Blair Thomas.....New England.....N.Y. Jets
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 Harvey Williams.....L.A. Raiders.....Kansas City
 John L. Williams.....Pittsburgh.....Seattle

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 Vance Johnson.....San Diego.....Denver
 Terance Mathis.....Atlanta.....N.Y. Jets
 Anthony Miller.....Denver.....San Diego
 Ricky Sanders.....Atlanta.....Washington

Tight End

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 Marv Cook.....Chicago.....New England
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 • Tim Irwin.....Tampa Bay.....Minnesota
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 • Bob Kratch.....New England.....N.Y. Giants
 • Trevor Matich.....Washington.....Indianapolis
 • Eric Moore.....Cincinnati.....N.Y. Giants
 • Lance Smith.....N.Y. Giants.....Arizona
 • Jeff Uhlenhake.....New Orleans.....Miami
 • Mike Withycombe.....Cleveland.....San Diego
 • Mike Zandofsky.....Atlanta.....San Diego

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Eddie Murray.....Philadelphia.....Dallas

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 • Randy Kirk.....Arizona.....Cincinnati
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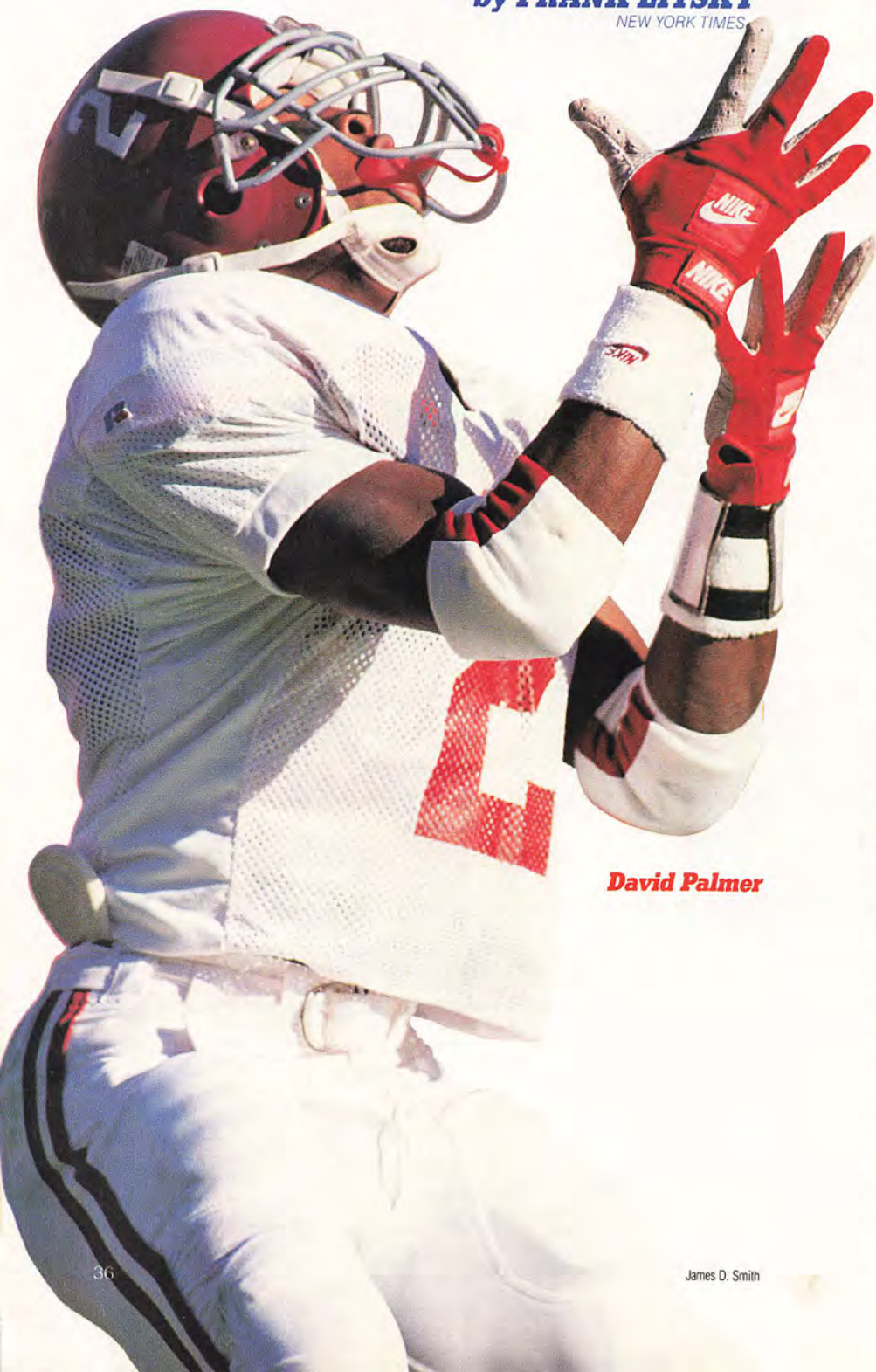
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NEW YORK TIMES



David Palmer

● In the distant past, when pro football had no unrestricted free agency, no salary cap, and no million-dollar players, the annual draft of college players was still a gamble. You never knew whether a can't-miss player would miss, but at least you drafted a dozen or more players and some would make it.

Oh, how that has changed. First came Plan B free agency, and teams could fill gaps before and after the draft. Last year, it was goodbye to Plan B and hello to unrestricted free agency, and the draft was reduced to eight rounds. This year, the insidious new salary cap is strangling unrestricted free agency, and the draft is down to seven rounds. Before the '94 draft, some teams tried to fill gaps with free agents. Some waited for the draft to get what they needed. Some seemed too shell-shocked to know what to do or when to do it. And the collective bargaining agreement between the club owners and the players' union allowed some teams to receive extra draft choices as compensation for losing a large number of unrestricted free agents or for losing certain key ones.

In all, 222 players were selected. Surprisingly, they did not include Charlie Ward, the Florida State quarterback who last fall won the Heisman Trophy as the nation's outstanding college player. In a world in which the only thing better than a 6-foot-3-inch quarterback is one who is 6-4, Ward stands just 5-11½. He had played in basically a shotgun offense. Perhaps most important, NFL teams feared he would be more committed to pro basketball than pro football.

Everyone felt the best player in the draft was Dan (Big Daddy) Wilkinson, a 6-3, 315-pound defensive tackle from Ohio State. The Cincinnati Bengals, with the first pick overall, wanted him, but the Bengals pinch pennies better than anyone else in the NFL and were tempted to trade the pick, thus saving themselves a small fortune. Such teams as the New England Patriots, the Seattle Seahawks, and the Arizona Cardinals tried to tie up neat packages of draft choices and veteran players to induce the Bengals to trade him. But in the week before the draft, the Bengals' switchboard was flooded with calls from people in Cincinnati (where so many of their ticket buyers lived), Columbus (where Wilkinson went to college), and Dayton (where he lived) that the Bengals had no choice. So they drafted him.

Rules changes made certain other types of players more valuable than in the past. Because kickoffs would be moved back five yards to the 30-yard line, more would be returned and therefore kickoff returners would become more valuable. And because the new rules provided for two-point conversions, a position player who had been an option quarterback would become more attractive. One player who fit both categories was WR/KR/occasional QB David Palmer of Alabama, and the Minnesota Vikings gladly picked him off in the second round.

Who did well and who didn't in the draft? The real answers will come in two or three or four years, when these players have had a chance to prove themselves. If you can't wait, here are the apparent winners and losers:

Winners—Vikings, Bengals, Tampa Bay Buccaneers (who are not noted for such brilliance), and 49ers (who are).

Losers—Cowboys (where have you gone, Jimmy Johnson, when we need you?), Raiders (known for weird drafts), and Bills (someone is breaking up that old gang of mine).

And a closer look at who did what:

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Not marvelous, but maybe not bad. They needed young offensive linemen, but their new head coach, Buddy Ryan, never met a defensive player he didn't like. Before the draft, the Cardinals signed DE Clyde Simmons and LB Seth Joyner, two of Buddy's favorites on the Philadelphia Eagles when he coached there, and re-signed LB Eric Hill, one of the best. Those three players will cost \$40 million over four years. In the draft, Ryan's first-round pick was OLB Jamir Miller of UCLA, a quick, outside pass rusher. That was a gamble because Miller is 20 years old, immature, and prone to off-field problems. Buddy plans to start him because, he said, "We think he can be a super player." RB Chuck Levy of Arizona (second round) has great speed and quickness but is prone to injury.

Dan Wilkinson



Bruce L. Schwartzman

ATLANTA FALCONS

Good to very good. The first-round choice had been traded to the Indianapolis Colts as part payment for QB Jeff George, and the new coach, June Jones, needed pass rushers and a cornerback (to replace Deion Sanders). The Falcons had also lost Michael Haynes and Mike Pritchard, and how do you play a run-

and-shoot offense without good wide receivers? Well, if you consider George a replacement for a No. 1 and DT Chris Doleman (traded from the Vikings) an equal value for Pritchard, the draft was off to a good start. WR Bert Emanuel of Rice, a bright but small college quarterback, became a second-round project. Third-round S Anthony Phillips of Texas A&M-Kingsville (formerly Texas A&I) has much to learn, but at 6-1 and 217, with 4.47 speed, he could become a steal.

BUFFALO BILLS

Despite six choices in the first three rounds, a dull draft. Forget those four straight AFC titles. The Bills are aging. Last year they lost OT Will Wolford. This year, they lost OT Howard Ballard and CB Nate Odomes and traded CB James Williams. But the only offensive line-

Antonio Langham



Jim Dunn/Milspott

man they took in the draft was OT Corey Loucheie of South Carolina, 6-7, 309, and a third-round project. Their first-round choice was CB Jeff Burris, who played TB, KR, SS, FS, and CB for Notre Dame. He may become highly useful, but a first-rounder? WR Bucky Brooks of North Carolina (second round) is, at 5-11, a slam-dunk champion. TE Lonnie Johnson of Florida State (second round) could become a top receiver. At least the draft brought speed from Burris (4.43) and Brooks (4.47).

CHICAGO BEARS

Not bad, although no fast receiver turned up. Before the draft, the Bears added QB Erik Kramer, RB Lewis Tillman, FB Merrill Hoge, and OT Andy Heck, a nice job of selecting and spending and a boon to the team with the NFL's weakest offense last year. The first-round choice was a beauty: OLB John Thierry of Alcorn State, 6-4 and 248 with 4.59 speed. He's a fine pass rusher who will start right away and get better—maybe a lot better. OT Marcus Spears of Northwestern Louisiana (third round) is 6-4, 302 and has the tools, though he doesn't know yet how to use them. DT Jim Flanigan (third round), like veteran DT and fellow Notre Damer Chris Zorich, is small in size but not in toughness.

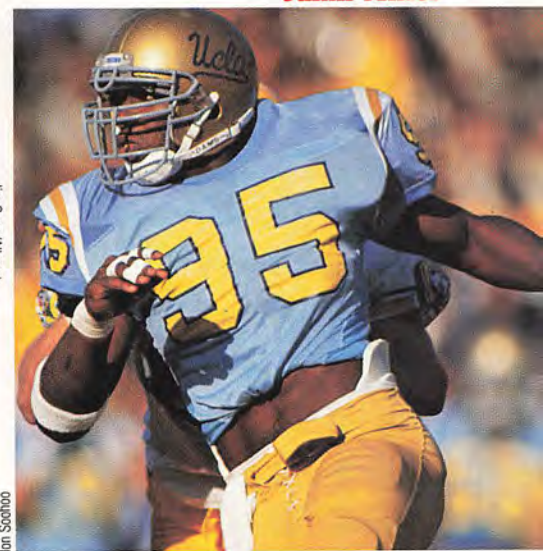
CINCINNATI BENGALS

A winner, if only because of DT Dan Wilkinson of Ohio State. Last year the offense ranked last in the NFL in scoring (11.7 points per game) and touchdowns rushing (3). But good defensive linemen are scarce, and when you see the best prospect since Reggie White, you grab him. Which the Bengals did, their best move all year, because they did little in the free-agent market. Wilkinson is fast (4.81 speed at 315 pounds) and strong (32 bench presses of 225 pounds), so physically gifted that he tends to get lazy at times, especially in practice. But he is barely 21, and that less-than-full effort should pass. Many teams were unsure of WR Darnay Scott of San Diego State, who drops too many passes, but he was a good second-round risk.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

A nice job, especially on the first round. Before the draft, they signed CB Don Griffin, a wise old head, but with more and more three-wideout offenses, more cornerbacks were needed. The Browns had a choice in the first round between the two top defensive backs on the board: Antonio Langham of Alabama and Aaron Glenn of Texas A&M. Langham is taller (5-11 vs. 5-8). Glenn is faster (4.4 vs.

Jamir Miller



Jim Dunn/Milspott

4.5). Langham is not that bulky, not that fast, not a big hitter, but the Browns took him because he was such a big-play creator, with 19 interceptions in college. Later, they traded up for the last pick in the first round and corralled WR Derrick Alexander of Michigan, who can do almost everything, including juvenile taunting in the end zone.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Freakish, dull, embarrassing, stupid—pick one or more. Jimmy Johnson, the coach/personnel guru who had led the Cowboys to the last two Super Bowl titles, was gone because of the ego clash between him and owner/general manager Jerry Jones. So Jones conducted his own draft. He tried desperately, amateurishly, and unsuccessfully to trade WR Alvin Harper and move up in the first round. He finally traded up five spots for Shante Carver of Arizona State, a slow, 240-pound outside linebacker destined to play defensive end. Carver would have been there a dozen picks later, and he has not made anyone forget the departed DT Tony Casillas and DT Jimmie Jones. Although OT/OG Larry Allen of Sonoma State (second round) is overweight and unsophisticated, he may become a good pro. He is needed because OG Kevin Gogan and OG/C John Gesek are gone.

DENVER BRONCOS

On draft day, they were almost shut out. Add the pre- and post-draft signings, and they did fine, getting high-class help for a defense that collapsed last year. Free agency brought Ray Crockett and Ben Smith, two wise cornerbacks, and Anthony Miller and Mike Pritchard, two speed receivers who can stretch the defense and allow John Elway to throw deep. On draft day, with no picks in Rounds 1, 3, 5, and 6, they did little. OLB Allen Aldridge (second round) is a reach—fast and quick but undersized (6-1) and raw. DB Randy Fuller of Tennessee State (fourth round) can cover and is willing to hit, but at 5-9 and 173, he is not big enough. Wait until you see their draft next year—no picks in Rounds 1, 2, 3, and 6.

DETROIT LIONS

Not bad. They needed help in the secondary and at inside linebacker, plus players to fit into a run-and-shoot offense trying to become somewhat more orthodox. Before the draft, they signed Scott Mitchell, the best free-agent quarterback available. On the first round, unable to move up for CB Aaron Glenn, they took WR Johnny Morton of Southern California. He's no burner, but a control receiver who runs routes the way they are drawn up. Even though the Lions had plenty of receivers, Morton could help them for years. S Van Malone of Texas (second round) is a tough hitter with, according to draft guru Joel Buchsbaum, "a special-teams' personality." Sleeper: OG Tony Semple of Memphis State (fifth round) if he learns to play up to his size (6-4, 287).

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Good enough, maybe real good, and a plus for signing unrestricted free agents. When they lost OLB Tony Bennett, they signed DE Sean Jones to keep the heat off DE Reggie White. Two days before the draft, they signed RB Reggie Cobb to help a bland running game. In the draft, they helped the offense more, though they did not get a big receiver to

negate the constant double-teaming of WR Sterling Sharpe. Their first-round pick, Aaron Taylor (6-4, 303) of Notre Dame, was the best offensive lineman on the board. He'll start at left guard, which should minimize his problems against quick outside pass rushers. Otherwise, he's excellent. RB LeShon Johnson of Northern Illinois (third round), who led collegians last season with 1,976 yards in 12 games, may need time to learn but will not get it.

HOUSTON OILERS

Decent at the top before it drifted off. The Oilers have made the playoffs seven straight years, but that old gang of theirs is breaking up. Say farewell to QB Warren Moon, one of the best, and to DE William Fuller and DE Sean Jones, two of the best. The offensive line is aging. Receivers are disappearing. The first two picks brought needed defensive ends: Henry Ford of Arkansas (first round) and Jeremy Nunley of Alabama (second round). Ford has the tools but is not physical enough. Nunley plays hard and well but lacks speed outside and power inside. In time, they will help, and this Ford will soon be driving a Caddy. WR Malcolm Seabron of Fresno State (third round) has quickness, smarts, 4.45 speed, and, from last season, a dislocated elbow and a sprained knee.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Very good to excellent, and maybe it could have been even better. They have been last in rushing the last three seasons and needed a big-play running back. With the second pick overall, they got a beauty in Marshall Faulk of San Diego State, extremely fast (4.43) and tough but young and immature. From the deal that sent unhappy QB Jeff George to the Falcons and then a draft-day tradeup, the Colts had the fifth pick overall and faced a difficult decision. Do they count on Jim Harbaugh, a free-agent addition, as their present and long-term quarterback or do they draft Trent Dilfer, a potential franchise savior? They voted for Harbaugh and used the pick for OLB Trev Alberts of Nebraska, a superb pass rusher. He will help a defense whose 21 sacks ranked last in the NFL last year. OG/C Eric Mahlum of California (second round) should help quickly.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

A good job for a team that had a clear-cut need at cornerback after Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross, two of the best, had flown the free-agent coup. RB Greg Hill of Texas A&M (first round) is a quick, explosive, finesse runner, but he lacks power and will not carry 25 times a game. Still, he should eventually succeed Marcus Allen and was worth being picked where he was. FB Donnell Bennett of Miami (second round), at 6-0 and 247, is in the Chiefs' tradition of big backs, and his 4.7 speed will not hurt. WR Lake Dawson of Notre Dame (third round) and WR Chris Penn of Tulsa (fourth round) can catch but lack speed. Cornerbacks? Bracey Walker of North Carolina (fourth round), James Burton of Fresno State (fifth round), and, hours after the draft, ex-Giant Mark Collins, an unrestricted free agent the Chiefs will love.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

How do you ever explain Raiders drafts? They badly wanted a productive running back and pass protectors to take pressure off QB Jeff Hostetler. They needed linebackers and a pass-rushing replacement for DE Howie Long, now safely entrenched behind a TV microphone. So they drafted OLB Rob Fredrickson of Michigan State on the first round and OLB/DE James Folston of Northeast Louisiana on the second. But is Fredrickson, the president of his senior class, a first-rounder? Is Folston (6-2, 235, 4.55) big enough to be the full-time defensive end the Raiders want? RB Calvin Jones of Nebraska (third round) is smart, but he is also an I-back runner who must learn to play in a two-back offense. So Hoss may face another injury-of-the-week season.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Not so smart, and don't be lulled by all the trading that gave them three choices in the second round and three in the third. Nor by the two trades that never happened, the ones that would have brought WR Alvin Harper from the Cowboys and QB Randall Cunningham from the Eagles. Because they didn't like QB Trent Dilfer on the first round, they traded down, so they will go at quarterback with free agent Chris

Johnny Morton



James D. Smith



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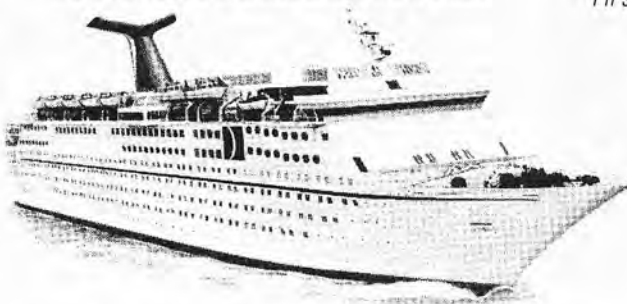
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Miller, coming off two knee operations in two years. Their best picks were OT Wayne Gandy of Auburn (first round), who will be good when he becomes physical; WR Isaac Bruce of Memphis State (second round), a good player who lacks size and speed; and DE/DT Brad Ottis of Wayne State (third round), with 31 sacks in 1992-93.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Decent after a questionable first rounder. The defensive front seven was decimated last year, and help was needed especially at linebacker and tackle. Six of the seven draftees were on defense, led by DT Tim Bowens of Mississippi (6-4, 325), who could be an awful first-round reach. He weighed almost 340 last season. He played only one year at a four-year college after transferring from, no kidding, Itawamba Community College. "There's some risk," conceded coach Don Shula of the Dolphins. OLB Aubrey Beavers of Oklahoma (second round) is raw but could be an important player. Interesting pick: Fourth-round OLB Ronnie Woolfork of Oklahoma (6-3, 253), a high school quarterback who could be a steal if he learns to be intense.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

A slick, professional job. With two picks in the first round and two in the second, they got four players who may be immediate starters while addressing their needs: offensive line, defense

Heath Shuler



Scott Halberstam

sive line, and wide receiver. CB Dewayne Washington of North Carolina State (first round) has 4.45 speed and will learn run support. OT Todd Steussie of California (first round) is 6-6 and 315 with ability, a good attitude, a 465-pound bench press, and a 610-pound squat. WR/PR/KR/QB David Palmer of Alabama (second round) is a 5-8, 167-pound 4.5 darter who makes this fast team faster. DE Fernando Smith

of Jackson State (second round) will replace Chris Doleman as a pass rusher. All this plus new QB Warren Moon.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

If DE Willie McGinest of Southern Cal, the fourth choice overall, is as good as coach Bill Parcells thinks, this will be a marvelous draft. In the off-season, the Patriots improved their secondary with S Myron Guyton and CB Ricky Reynolds. In the draft, they wanted a speed receiver for QB Drew Bledsoe's bombs and help for the defensive front seven. McGinest (6-4, 255, 4.7) has a great outside rush, but is he physical enough? Many teams think not and did not rank him among the top 10 picks. WR Kevin Lee of Alabama (second round) is an unpolished but real prospect with 4.49 speed. QB Jay Walker of Howard (seventh round) is raw and could be a backup bargain or a training-camp bust.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Just fair. They wanted youth for an aging defense, and with the 13th pick overall they took DE Joe Johnson of Louisville, a good pass rusher but inconsistent against the run and not really ready. He was probably a reach. RB Mario Bates (6-0, 217, 4.4) of Arizona State (second round) has the right numbers, but his skills are limited to running. He is a fine prospect with a bad knee. QB Doug Nussmeier of Idaho (fourth round) is a lefty with an erratic arm and a slow release. Although he will take time and has much to learn, his attitude is good and he seems a worthwhile project. And after all, how long will the Saints be enchanted by their new quarterback, Jim Everett?

NEW YORK GIANTS

Maybe better than people think. The main priorities were a fast wide receiver, defensive backs to replace Myron Guyton and Mark Collins, and offensive linemen to replace Bob Kratch and Eric Moore. They stunned everyone when they spent their first-round pick on WR/PR/KR Thomas Lewis of Indiana, but no one else knew that this supposed 4.5 or 4.6 receiver had run 4.41 for the Giants. CB Thomas Randolph of Kansas State (second round) is a 5-9, 176-pound flyer who plays tall because of a 41-inch vertical leap. Strapping S Jason Sehorn of Southern Cal (second round) may be a latter-day Ronnie Lott. Speed? How about 4.42 for Randolph and 4.58 for Sehorn.

NEW YORK JETS

Good enough to have Pete Carroll, the new coach, smiling. They needed a cornerback, a wide receiver, and offensive linemen. Everyone seemed sure they would take a receiver, probably Charles Johnson, in the first round. Instead, they traded up for CB Aaron Glenn of Texas A&M (5-8, 184, 4.4), a fast cover man who must learn run support. In man coverage, he's a Darrell Green clone. In four years at Wyoming, WR Ryan Yarbrough (second round) caught 222 passes for 4,357 yards and 42 touchdowns. Now he must do the same at a higher level. While QB Glenn Foley of Boston College (seventh round) is not the biggest or fastest, he may be the toughest. A fifth-round name with a good ring: OLB Horace Morris of Tennessee.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

As disjointed and puzzling as this draft is, it may turn out O.K. The owner insulted half of his play-

ers and then sold the team. The front office tried unsuccessfully to trade QB Randall Cunningham. Unrestricted free agents, notably DE Clyde Simmons and OLB Seth Joyner, took off as fast as they could. Despite all that, some good things happened. At 6-8 and 317, OT Bernard Williams of Georgia (first round) is more lanky than bulky, and if he learns to play hard all the time, he can become a Pro Bowl regular. The third-rounders, OG/OT Joe Panos of Wisconsin and S Eric Zomalt of California, are hard-working but limited. Still, they will help. But the second-rounders, DT Bruce Walker of UCLA and RB Charlie Garner of Tennessee, need to get their acts together.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Decent enough because WR Charles Johnson of Colorado slipped down to the 17th pick overall. They needed a fullback to replace the departed Merrill Hoge. They wanted a fast receiver and almost signed WR Alvin Harper to an offer sheet. On draft day, the receiver fell in their arms when the Jets passed up Johnson. The Steelers grabbed him, and why not? He has decent size (6-0, 188), speed (4.46), and smarts (he graduated college in three years). The third round produced a fullback, Byron (Bam) Morris of Texas Tech (6-1, 235), who runs defenses. Newly signed John L. Williams will hold the fort until Morris is ready. Of the two second-round DEs, Brentson Buckner of Clemson (6-2, 300) tends to be lazy and Jason Gildon of Oklahoma State (6-4, 224) is an outside pass rusher who will probably be limited to third-down duty.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Fair job, considering all the needs. The pass defense wanted tackles to apply pressure, linebackers to blitz, and cornerbacks to cover. The offense needed guards to replace Mike Zandofsky and Mike Withycombe and a receiver to replace Anthony Miller. And there was no first-round pick. The second round brought OGs Isaac Davis of Arkansas and Vaughn Parker of UCLA. But the 325-pound Davis, though talented, is overweight and the 305-pound Parker needs more strength. WR Andre Coleman of Kansas State (third round) is a little burner with 4.39 speed. CB Willie Clark of Notre Dame (third round) is fast (4.45) and covers well but lacks experience.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Did anyone do better? They wanted a defensive lineman to pair with bright, young Dana Stubblefield; a fullback to take over for aging, high-salaried Tom Rathman; a kicker to replace Mike Cofer, and an inside linebacker to replace Bill Romanowski. (They had already signed ILB Ken Norton Jr. and ILB Gary Plummer as veteran free agents.) They satisfied all four needs in the first three rounds. In the first round, they traded up for mobile DE Bryant Young of Notre Dame and traded down for 238-pound FB William Floyd of Florida State. The second round brought monstrous ILB Kevin Mitchell of Syracuse and quick CB Tyrone Drakeford of Virginia Tech. The third round produced Doug Brien of California, the only place-kicker drafted.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Not too bad, considering they had only five choices. Before the draft, they signed CB Nate Odomes and OT Howard Ballard, two gifted

players too expensive for the Bills to keep. The draft priorities were a defensive lineman to keep DT Cortez Kennedy from being double- or triple-teamed and pass blockers so QB Rick Mirer would not be sacked 47 times again. After trying unsuccessfully to trade up for DT Dan Wilkinson or DE Bryant Young, their first-round pick was DE Sam Adams of Texas A&M (6-2, 292, 4.9), a blue-chipper if he learns to work hard. C Kevin Mawae of Louisiana State (second round) played tackle as a sophomore, guard as a junior, and center as a senior. Sleeper: TE Carlester Crumpler of East Carolina (seventh round) if he improves his blocking.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

A big-time draft. The NFL's 27th-ranked offense needed a scary running back, especially since free-agent RB Reggie Cobb left town for Green Bay two days before the draft. The offensive and defensive lines needed help, and a backup

Aaron Taylor

John Williamson

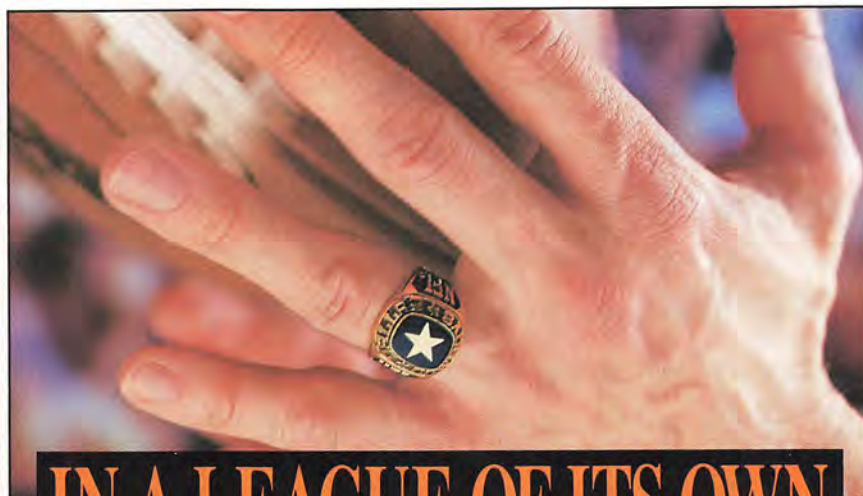


was needed for QB Craig Erickson. That quarterback job seemed destined for a veteran free agent, but when Trent Dilfer, a potential franchise quarterback, dropped down to the Bucs on the sixth pick of the first round, they took him gleefully. Now, once Dilfer learns the job, Erickson seems the designated backup. RB Errict Rhett of Florida (second round) is an aggressive inside runner and will probably start. Sleeper: C Jim Pyne of Virginia Tech, a 6-2 over-achiever.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

A thoughtful, competent draft. The offense needed a quarterback, an offensive lineman, and a wide receiver, and by the end of the third round it had them all. With the third pick overall and no returning quarterback they liked, they were taking one of the two bright young quarterbacks. But which? General manager Charley Casserly liked Trent Dilfer of Fresno State. The new coach, Norv Turner, preferred Heath Shuler of Tennessee. Turner won, and Shuler will start quickly, maybe in the opener, with a limited offense that will grow weekly. OT Tre Johnson of Temple (second round) is big (6-3, 315) and quick. WR Tydus Winans of Fresno State (third round) is smallish but has 4.4 speed. ☐

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The Top '95 Pro Prospects

by JIM CARLEY

● In the 1994 NFL draft, some observers might have been surprised to see a little-known player from Alcorn State, linebacker John Thierry, go in the first round (to the Bears). In next year's draft, there won't be any surprise when another Alcorn State player goes in the first round. And that one, quarterback Steve McNair, should be one of the first players picked, if not the first. As such, he heads Street & Smith's 1995 Mock First Round draft, gleaned from discussions with numerous pro scouts and personnel people, all of whom asked to remain anonymous. Talking about underclassmen this early is a no-no with some college coaches.

At Alcorn, McNair is already a legend. And it hasn't been kept much of a secret, since he was one of the 10 finalists for the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's best quarterback last year, and as a sophomore was the first athlete from Division I-AA to win *Sports Illustrated's* Offensive Player of the Year award. McNair wouldn't be the first small-school quarterback to be the top pick, but he would be the first since Terry Bradshaw of Louisiana Tech went No. 1 to Pittsburgh in 1970.

Most folks around the country know him as "Air" McNair, but they call him "Air II" McNair at Alcorn because his older brother, Fred, was a standout quarterback at the school in 1988-89. "Air II" has broken all the Alcorn State records, throwing for more than 9,600 yards and 75 touchdowns in his first three years. But his powerful arm isn't the only thing the scouts like about him. McNair is also a tremendous clutch player who brought the Braves from behind five times last year alone. He has developed the kind of reputation John Elway has with Denver.

"He just has a knack," one AFC scout said of McNair. "He's the most productive guy at bringing his team back that I've ever seen. If he does it some, you might say he's just lucky. But this guy's got a history of doing it all the time. He might have ice water in his veins. I don't know." Some scouts compare him to Randall Cunningham, while others say he's more like Warren Moon. "He's built real strong," one NFC scout said. "He's very raw right now, but he has great athletic skills."

McNair will have a big, quality target to throw to again this year, one who could follow his quarterback to the NFL. Marcus Hinton is a 6-4, 245-pound wide receiver who scouts say "looks like a tight end but runs like a wideout."

If McNair isn't the top pick, perhaps USC giant tackle Tony Boselli (6-8, 305) will be. He surprised some pro personnel people when he didn't come out last year, even though he missed five games after dislocating a kneecap. In the long legacy of superb Trojan offensive linemen (17 of them have been first-round picks), Boselli already ranks near the top.

"He's as good as those offensive linemen who came out last year," one AFC personnel director said. "In fact, I think this kid was better than [Georgia's] Bernard Williams [the Eagles' first-round pick last year]. If he comes off the knee injury and has a good year, he'll go real high."

UCLA wide receiver J.J. Stokes is the leading returning Heisman candidate. Last season, he caught 68 passes for 1,005 yards and 17 touchdowns. Said one scout, "He would have been my choice as the country's top receiver if he had come out last year." Another scout called the 6-5, 214-pound Stokes "a big target with a long stride. Those little cornerbacks are going to have to get some stilts to cover him." Challenging Stokes for best receiver in the country will be Ohio State's Joey Galloway, a 4.3 runner in the 40 who has soft hands and big-play ability. Eleven of the 45 passes he caught last year went for TDs.

The country's best running back likely will be Michigan's Tyrone Wheatley, who gained 1,005 yards and 11 touchdowns despite missing two games with injuries. "He's a power runner," one scout said. "He had a little injury problem, but if he shakes that, he could be a very high pick."

Florida end Kevin Carter and Notre Dame safety Bobby Taylor might be the top two defensive players to be drafted. Carter is huge (6-6, 271) and runs a 4.4. Some scouts think Taylor was better last year as a sophomore than Jeff Burris, the Irish cornerback who went in the first round in April to the Bills. "Taylor's got the bloodline," said one scout, referring to the fact that his father, Robert, was a silver medalist in the 100 meters and helped the U.S. 400-meter relay team win the gold at the 1972 Olympics. "I would have taken him over Burris last year. He's a tremendous athlete."

Another junior who likely will come out early is Ohio State's Korey Stringer, a massive (6-6, 310) offensive tackle who amazed onlookers last year with his strength off the line. He and Dan Wilkinson, the No. 1 pick in '94, became the first Buckeyes to win All-America as sophomores since 1979.

Another big offensive lineman who has turned the heads of scouts is Pitt's Reuben Brown, a 6-4, 305-pound tackle who recorded 40 "pancake" blocks last year alone.

1995 Mock First Round Draft

1. Steve McNair, QB, *Alcorn State*
2. Tony Boselli, OT, *USC*
3. J.J. Stokes, WR, *UCLA*
4. Joey Galloway, WR, *Ohio State*
5. Tyrone Wheatley, RB, *Michigan*
6. Kevin Carter, DE, *Florida*
7. Bobby Taylor, FS, *Notre Dame*
8. Korey Stringer, OL, *Ohio State*
9. Reuben Brown, OT, *Pittsburgh*
10. Bryan Schwartz, LB, *Augustana College*
11. Eric Zeier, QB, *Georgia*
12. Michael Westbrook, WR, *Colorado*
13. Rodney Thomas, RB, *Texas A&M*
14. Derrick Brooks, LB, *Florida State*
15. Carl Greenwood, DB, *UCLA*
16. Kelvin Anderson, RB, *SE Missouri State*
17. Dana Howard, LB, *Illinois*
18. Carl Kidd, DB, *Arkansas*
19. Antonio Armstrong, LB, *Texas A&M*
20. Zach Wiegert, OT, *Nebraska*
21. Lee Becton, RB, *Notre Dame*
22. Antonio Freeman, WR, *Virginia Tech*
23. Sam Shade, DB, *Alabama*
24. Lovell Pinkney, WR, *Texas*
25. Sherman Williams, RB, *Alabama*
26. Chris T. Jones, WR, *Miami*
27. Sean Harris, LB, *Arizona*
28. Eddie Goines, WR, *N.C. State*
29. Barrett Brooks, OT, *Kansas State*
30. Andrew Peterson, OL, *Washington*

Other Potential First-Rounders

- Clifton Abraham, DB, *Florida State*
- Toby Cates, WR, *South Carolina*
- Marcus Hinton, WR, *Alcorn State*
- Rob Johnson, QB, *USC*
- John Jones, OT, *Kansas*
- Ryan Leahy, OT, *Notre Dame*
- Kez McCorvey, WR, *Florida State*
- Brent Moss, RB, *Wisconsin*
- Craig Newsome, DB, *Arizona State*
- Jerrott Willard, LB, *California*

Other High-Round Possibilities

- Justin Armour, WR, *Stanford*
- Dave Barr, QB, *California*
- Brandon Bennett, RB, *South Carolina*
- Tony Bouie, DB, *Arizona*
- David Dunn, WR, *Fresno State*
- Brian Gelzheiser, LB, *Penn State*
- Brian Hamilton, DE, *Notre Dame*
- Jimmy Herndon, OT, *Houston*
- Chris Hudson, DB, *Colorado*
- Ken Irvin, DB, *Memphis*
- Napoleon Kaufman, RB, *Washington*
- Chad May, QB, *Kansas State*
- Steve Stenstrom, QB, *Stanford*
- Orlanda Thomas, DB, *SW Louisiana*

* Junior



Greg Jensen/The Clarion Ledger

Steve McNair

If there's a surprise, or sleeper pick, in next year's draft, it could be linebacker Bryan Schwartz, who plays at Division II Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. Some scouts have had trouble finding him, ending up at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. When they did locate him, they discovered Schwartz is a pre-med student who runs a 4.8 40, is a standout basketball player, and has a 30-inch vertical leap. He had 128 tackles, eight of them for losses, last year and now has 313 tackles for his career. Another unknown player who could vault into the limelight next season is Southeast Missouri State running back Kelvin Anderson. A strong but short (5-7) runner, he has great speed (4.4) and one scout called him "the poor man's Barry Sanders."

It'll be no surprise to see Georgia quarterback Eric Zeier in the NFL draft. He threw for 3,525 yards and 24 touchdowns in '93 with only seven interceptions. Scouts are concerned with his lack of size (6-1), but say he reads defenses well and has a healthy arm.

Colorado wide receiver Michael Westbrook's statistics mysteriously dropped last year and one scout thinks it was because the Buffaloes forgot him. Westbrook had a school-record 76 catches for 1,060 yards as a sophomore, then caught only 33 for 490 last season. "I put him up there with Stokes," the scout said. "You can flip a coin between them. I don't know why they didn't throw him the ball more last year. I guess they were going to Charlie Johnson [first-round pick by the Steelers]. But I thought Westbrook was way better than Johnson. He can run."

Texas A&M was loaded with running backs a year ago. Greg Hill went in the first round to the Kansas City Chiefs and freshman Leeland McElroy doubled as the nation's best kickoff-return man (39.3-yard average). But scouts say Rodney Thomas, who led the Aggies with 996 yards rushing, is as good as any of them. "He's a straight-line guy with good speed," one scout said. "He'll go high next year."

Florida State linebacker Derrick Brooks is a vicious hitter who some thought was coming out last spring. Scouts are concerned with his height (6-1) and an injury problem last season, but are wowed by his big-play ability. Through the Seminoles' first five games in 1993, Brooks himself outscored all five FSU opponents (18-14).

Two personnel directors who scouted UCLA thought Carl Greenwood was a better defensive back than his teammate Marvin Goodwin, who went in the fifth round to the Philadelphia Eagles in April. Greenwood runs a 4.6 and hits like a truck.

Among other likely high-round picks, Notre Dame running back Lee Becton is an elusive runner who reminds some scouts of Amp Lee, the 49er running back who was a second-round pick in 1992; Texas A&M linebacker Antonio Armstrong (formerly Antonio Shorter), who gave Lombardi Award winner Aaron Taylor (first-round pick by Green Bay) more than he could handle in the Cotton Bowl when Armstrong won Defensive MVP after registering three sacks; and North Carolina State wide receiver Eddie Goines, who averaged 19.4 yards per catch last season. □

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Passing Judgments

**Opinions, observations, and predictions
on issues big and small**

by **GLEN MACNOW**

It used to be easy to keep track of the NFL. Year after year, Warren Moon was taking snaps in Houston, Washington's Posse was challenging for the Super Bowl, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were finishing in last place. And now? Now there's free agency and the salary cap and no more stability in pro football. These days, the Moon is over Minnesota, the Posse is spread across the entire NFL, and the Bucs are still in the basement. At least some things never change.

How is anyone to keep up? The NFL comprises 28 coaches and 1,500 players—each of whom seemed to switch clubs this offseason. Cornerback Mark Collins, a three-time all-pro and one-time Super Bowl hero, played



Warren Moon

Dave Black

eight years for the Giants. Do you know where he plays now? Neither did we, until we looked it up (Kansas City). Steve Bono? For years he was San Francisco's reliable backup quarterback. No longer. Last we checked, Bono was recording another duet with Frank Sinatra.

It's tougher and tougher to be a fan. We don't even know where to tune the television dial anymore to pull in John Madden. All that said, we'll try to tear through the turf to lay out a few basic truths. These are our passing judgments on issues, great and small, facing our favorite league in 1994:

Trading Places

NFL quarterbacks didn't play the market so much as they played musical chairs this offseason. Let's see now, Chicago dumped Jim Harbaugh, who went to Indianapolis, which sent Jeff George to Atlanta, which lost free agent Chris Miller to the Rams, who let Jim Everett skip to New Orleans, which showed no resistance when Steve Walsh packed for Chicago. A perfect circle. In all, more than 20 quarterbacks swapped jerseys since the Super Bowl, including 10 of last year's starters.

The Best Moves:

1. Warren Moon goes from Houston to Minnesota. Sure, he's 38 years old and about as mobile as a filing cabinet. But Moon still can launch them, and he's desperate to get to a Super Bowl. The Vikes won nine games last season platooning Sean Salisbury and a used-up Jim McMahon. Moon could be the guy to get them to the next level.

2. Eric Kramer goes from Detroit to Chicago. He got too much money (\$2.7 million a year), but Kramer is a winner. Plus, he's the kind of guy who'll stay in the game even with a bashed-in nose and some mangled fingers. That style plays well in Chicago.

3. Jeff George goes from Indianapolis to Atlanta. O.K., it's a risk. He's a fifth-year player who has battled with coaches, fans, and teammates. But take George away from the magnifying glass of his hometown and give him a fresh start on a club with a solid line and speedy receivers and, well, we think it's a formula for success.



Michael Yelman

Jeff George

The Worst Moves:

1. Scott Mitchell goes from Miami to Detroit. Did we miss something here? The young lefty performed well in four games last season, played eight games overall, and the Lions handed him a three-year deal worth \$11 million. It includes a \$5 million signing bonus that several observers deemed "insane." We'd have to agree.

2. Bubby Brister goes from Philadelphia to Philadelphia. Hmm, he turned down \$3.8 million for two years to start in New Orleans, only to watch the Saints sign Everett instead. So the Bubster is still an Eagle, making \$1 million per year less and backing up Randall Cunningham. Who gave him his career advice, Chevy Chase?

3. Harbaugh goes from Chicago to Indianapolis. In itself, not a bad move for the Colts, who needed someone other than George. But Indy used Harbaugh as an excuse for not taking Shuler or Trent Dilfer in the draft. Three years down the road, that will rank as a devastating blunder.

What to Look for in '94

1. General managers will carp about the cap. It was the owners, you recall, who injected a salary ceiling into the basic agreement. But while players seem content to live with the limits, the GMs are whining like the cast of *Seinfeld* about how the constraints keep them

Eric Kramer



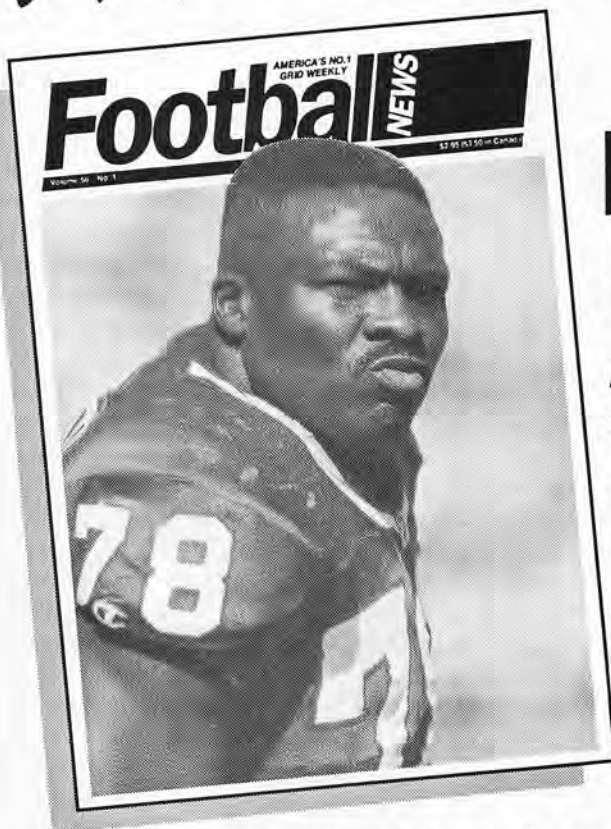
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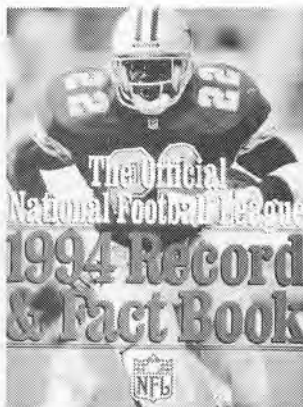
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SS-P

Passing Judgments

from doing their jobs. Hey, guys, shut up and count your profits!

2. Game-program sales will break records in Washington. Let's see now, who's left from that perennial powerhouse? Not Charles Mann or Joe Jacoby. Not Jeff Bostic or Mark Rypien. Not the legendary Posse, with Art Monk and Ricky Sanders following Gary Clark onto new trails. The new ace of the receiving corps (corpse?) is Henry Ellard. All you need to know about the 'Skins is that William Hinchcliff of New Zealand and Augustin Olobia of Nigeria both have a shot to make it as receivers. No, we never heard of them either.

3. Running back Lewis Tillman, formerly of the Giants, will prove to be the free-agent steal of the year. Tillman broke all of Walter Payton's rushing records at Jackson State. He won't be breaking Payton's records in Chicago, but we foresee a 1,000-yard season.

4. Owner Jerry Jones and coach Barry Switzer will come to be regarded by Cowboys fans as the walking embodiments of Jed Clampett and Jethro Bodine. We don't expect a total collapse in Big D, more like something in the 10-6 realm. For folks in Dallas, that's panic time. Especially when Jimmy Johnson is smearing on the suntan lotion down in Florida.

5. Pittsburgh wide receiver Charles Johnson will be the runaway Rookie of the Year. This guy is a fascinating story: horrible childhood, attempted suicide as a teen, moved into a high school classmate's home where he flourished as a person and a player. He's fast, athletic, and competitive and we project him to catch 60 passes for 1,000-plus yards. Certainly, we're pulling for the kid. On defense, it's tough to bypass Cincinnati's Big Daddy Wilkinson as the top newcomer, but we'll go with Antonio Langham, the playmaking corner-back drafted by the Browns.

Daniel Gluskoter

Jimmy Johnson



NFL Bests and Worst

Helmets: Best—Rams, Cowboys, Seahawks. But just wait until next year when the Carolina Panthers steal the title. Worst—Browns, Redskins, Buccaneers (Sam Wyche is right, it's time to lose the sissy swashbuckler with the feather in his hat).

Fans: Best—Broncos, Giants, Redskins (We like "Hail to the Redskins." Makes it like a college crowd.) Worst—Lions, Jets, Cowboys (Sure they're showing up now. But where were they in the lean years?) The difference be-

tween the two Meadowlands crowds? Age, class, knowledge of the game, and about 75 IQ points per person.

Stadiums: Best—Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami; Soldier Field, Chicago; Lambeau Field, Green Bay (built for \$960,000 in 1957—less than the annual salary of a pulling guard these days). Worst—Houston Astrodome (the oldest dome is the shabbiest); Los Angeles Coliseum (more muggings in the parking lot than on the field); Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia (the turf shreds more knees than any cheap-shot artist ever did).

Football Expendables

1. The rising number of insolent players. Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe is an incredible talent. But his surly behavior besmirches his on-field luster.

2. Monosyllabic Browns coach Bill Belichick. True story: Once, a writer requested, "Bill, can I ask you three questions?" With an icy glare, the grumpy one responded, "That's one. You've got two to go."

3. Come to think of it, we can live without any head coach who regards football as brain surgery. The Saints' Jim Mora is fond of telling reporters, "You guys will never understand the game." If that's the case, how is the average fan supposed to relate to it?

4. Draftniks like Mel Kiper Jr. and slicked-back purveyors of misinformation like Fred Edelstein. If these guys are such insiders, how come they're always seen dining alone? Come to think of it, would you share a table with either one?

5. Eagles skinflint owner Norman Braman. Oh, yeah, he's gone now. Sold the franchise to Jeff Lurie, a Hollywood producer. Lurie, Lurie, hallelujah!

What We Miss in the NFL

1. Joe Gibbs, Jimmy Johnson, Bill Walsh, Mike Ditka. How is it possible that the men who won nine of the past 13 Super Bowls are out fishing or driving race cars or whatever, while failed legacy David Shula remains employed in pro football?

2. L.T. Initials will suffice here. We miss him already. L.T.'s intensity, desire, and vigor made him the greatest defensive player in NFL history (and you can save your cards and letters, Dick Butkus fans).

3. Loyalty. Sure, it was a one-way street back when the owners regarded players as indentured servants. But now, nobody in the

game seems faithful to anything. How do fans gain anything when a civic treasure like Clyde Simmons up and leaves Philadelphia for division-rival Arizona?

4. CBS's coverage. Nothing against the Fox network, which loaded Madden, Bradshaw, Summerall, and the others into a moving van and drove them to a new studio. It's just that, for our money, no network ever covered any sport as well as CBS covered football. A Sunday double-header, including pre- and post-game shows, provided seven-plus hours of excellence on the tube. We still get misty-eyed thinking of the days when Brent Musburger used to belt out, "You are looking live at Texas Stadium."

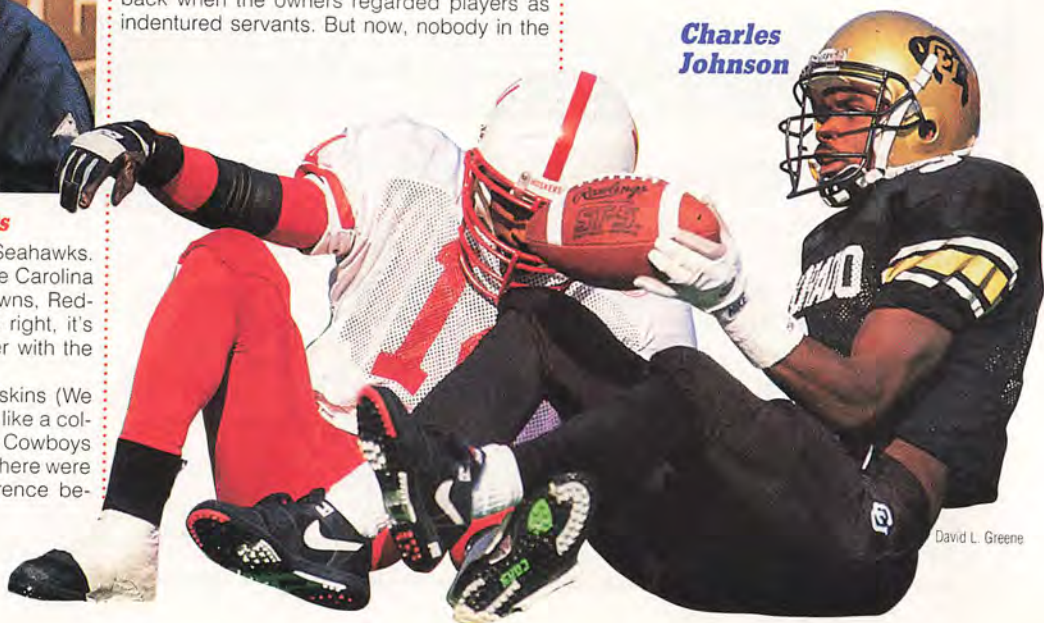
5. Papa Bear Halas. Yes, he's passed on, but to us he represents every old-time owner who understood the sport. How many can you say that about now? Jerry Jones? A wannabe.

Antonio Langham



James D. Smith

Charles Johnson



David L. Greene

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TD Scored: 6 pts
Field Goal: 3 pts
Extra Point: 1 pt
Extra Point: 2 pts

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TD Scored: 6 pts
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2. Running Backs Points
3. Receivers Points
4. Kickers Points
5. Defensive Team Points

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GROUP 1 QB	TEAM	PTS
1 J. ELWAY	DEN	326.4
2 B. FAVRE	GB	272.2
3 J. HOSTETLER	LAR	263.3
4 W. MOON	MIN	285.9
5 S. YOUNG	SF	387.8

GROUP 2 QB	TEAM	PTS
6 T. AIKMAN	DAL	226.1
7 R. CUNNINGHAM	PHI	81.2
8 B. ESIASON	NYJ	251.2
9 J. KELLY	BUF	253.6
10 D. MARINO	MIA	102.2

GROUP 3 QB	TEAM	PTS
11 D. BLEDSOE	NE	198.0
12 C. ERICKSON	TB	239.8
13 R. MIRER	SEA	207.7
14 J. MONTANA	KC	164.1
15 N. O'DONNELL	PIT	223.5

GROUP 4 REC	TEAM	PTS
16 T. BROWN	LAR	166.7
17 M. IRVIN	DAL	175.6
18 J. RICE	SF	253.2
19 A. RISON	ATL	214.2
20 S. SHARPE	GB	194.2

GROUP 5 REC	TEAM	PTS
21 C. CARTER	MIN	161.1
22 A. MILLER	DEN	158.2
23 H. MOORE	DET	129.8
24 R. PROEHL	PHO	133.8
25 S. SHARPE	DEN	153.5

GROUP 6 REC	TEAM	PTS
26 B. BLADES	SEA	117.7
27 M. JACKSON	CLE	124.7
28 M. PRITCHARD	DEN	116.0
29 A. REED	BUF	123.5
30 J. TAYLOR	SF	127.3

GROUP 7 REC	TEAM	PTS
31 A. CARTER	MIN	109.3
32 E. GIVINS	HOU	114.6
33 A. HARPER	DAL	109.5
34 H. JEFFERIES	HOU	111.2
35 E. MARTIN	NO	113.0

GROUP 8 REC	TEAM	PTS
36 G. CLARK	PHO	105.6
37 M. HAYNES	NO	101.8
38 M. INGRAM	MIA	106.7
39 C. JOHNSON	PIT	ROOKIE
40 C. PICKENS	CIN	92.0

GROUP 9 RB	TEAM	PTS
41 M. ALLEN	KC	190.2
42 J. BETTIS	LA	196.5
43 E. SMITH	DAL	250.0
44 T. THOMAS	BUF	206.2
45 R. WATTERS	SF	193.6

GROUP 10 RB	TEAM	PTS
46 G. BROWN	HOU	172.2
47 B. FOSTER	PIT	147.0
48 R. HAMPTON	NYG	158.7
49 L. RUSSELL	NE	176.0
50 B. SANDERS	DET	150.0

GROUP 11 RB	TEAM	PTS
51 E. BENNETT	GB	160.7
52 J. JOHNSON	NYJ	170.2
53 T. KIRBY	MIA	162.4
54 R. MOORE	PHO	158.4
55 H. WALKER	PHI	158.9

GROUP 12 RB	TEAM	PTS
56 R. BERNSTINE	DEN	142.8
57 R. BROOKS	WASH	142.9
58 K. BYARS	MIA	124.6
59 M. FALK	IND	ROOKIE
60 N. MEANS	SD	118.4

GROUP 13 KICKER	TEAM	PTS
61 J. CARNEY	SD	124.0
62 A. DELGRECO	HOU	126.0
63 J. HANSON	DET	130.0
64 C. JACKIE	GB	128.0
65 J. JAEGER	LAR	132.0

GROUP 14 KICKER	TEAM	PTS
66 G. ANDERSON	PIT	116.0
67 M. ANDERSON	NO	117.0
68 J. ELAM	DEN	119.0
69 N. JOHNSON	ATL	112.0
70 E. MURRAY	DAL	122.0

GROUP 15 DEFENSIVE TEAMS	
71 BILLS	72 BENGALS
73 BROWNS	74 BRONCOS
75 OILERS	76 COLTS
77 CHIEFS	78 RAIDERS
79 DOLPHINS	80 PATRIOTS
81 JETS	82 STEELERS
83 CHARGERS	84 SEAHAWKS

GROUP 16 DEFENSIVE TEAMS	
85 FALCONS	86 BEARS
87 COWBOYS	88 LIONS
89 PACKERS	90 RAMS
91 VIKINGS	92 SAINTS
93 GIANTS	94 EAGLES
95 CARDINALS	96 49ERS
97 BUCCANEERS	98 REDSKINS

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Passing Judgments

Mike McCaskey? A pretty boy. Georgia Frontiere? A chorus girl. Tom Benson? A car dealer. The new breed of NFL chieftains can tell you lots about merchandising and depreciation and developing foreign markets, but most couldn't diagram a draw play if they just watched one being run.



Robert Rogers

David Palmer

6. Mad Stork Hendricks, Bronko Nagurski, Crazy Legs Hirsch, Night Train Lane, Concrete Bednarik, Mean Joe Greene. We miss these stars. But just as much, we miss their colorful nicknames. There's a void now, and "Thurmanator" Thomas just isn't going to fill it. We're rooting big time for Big Daddy.

Great Anonymous Role Players:

Best Backup Quarterback: Frank Reich, Buffalo. He'll always be remembered for engineering the greatest comeback in NFL history (32 points), but Reich is more than that. He's a team leader and clutch performer. He's a non-complainer who could probably have had a real career playing elsewhere. Oh, by the way, he had the highest ranking among the 61 NFL quarterbacks who threw at least 10 passes in 1993.

Best Fullback: Daryl Johnston, Dallas. The Moose lugged the ball just 24 times last season, but he opened the hole on most of Emmitt Smith's 283 carries. In the '90s—with brutes like Jimmy Brown and Cookie Gilchrist just distant memories—a fullback's role is to block and receive. Johnston (50 catches) does both as well as anyone now at the position.

Best Third-Down Back: Keith Byars, Miami. You need an eight-yard reception? He'll get you nine. You need a three-yard run? He'll break the plane. He's a punishing blocker and a clutch performer. We'll take him.

Best Special-Teams Player: Elbert Shelley, Atlanta. He's a former running back who's surprisingly athletic. Many players see special

teams as a chore. Shelley takes his job as a kick-coverage guy very seriously. He's stolen this title from Buffalo's Steve Tasker.

Best Clutch Punter: Jeff Feagles, Phoenix. His per-kick average for the Eagles last season (40.0 yards) ranked 25th in the NFL. But Feagles potted 31 punts out of bounds inside the 20, the most in the league. And opponents returned just 42 percent of his kicks.

Top Questions for 1994

1. Will any NFL coach use the two-point conversion?

Coaches are downright meek when it comes to tough decisions. Some get the sweats choosing between mustard and mayo. So logic suggests most will eschew the two-pointer in favor of the safe (and boring) PAT kick. But the gutsy leaders will go for the challenge of grabbing another point. Our General Patton is Minnesota's Dennis Green, who has rookie receiver David Palmer at his disposal. The versatile Palmer took an occasional turn at quarterback for Alabama last year and even started a game there. He gives the Vikings a quick, explosive option threat from the 2-yard line on two-point tries.

2. Who's auditioning for the quarterback jobs in Jacksonville and Carolina?

About 40 players deemed themselves NFL starters last year, only to run into a job shortage. So this season begins with the likes of Bernie Kosar and Jim McMahon schlepping clipboards and avoiding the heavy work. Next year, of course, the Jaguars and Panthers will join up, presenting two new spots for starters. Who will get them? Early to say, of course, but our best guesses are John Friesz (who will take the hits in RFK Stadium for now until No. 1 draft pick Heath Shuler is deemed ready) and the Eagles' Brister (who heard his own player personnel director, John Wooten, describe him in the spring as "the perfect expansion team quarterback").

3. Who will be the surprise team of '94?

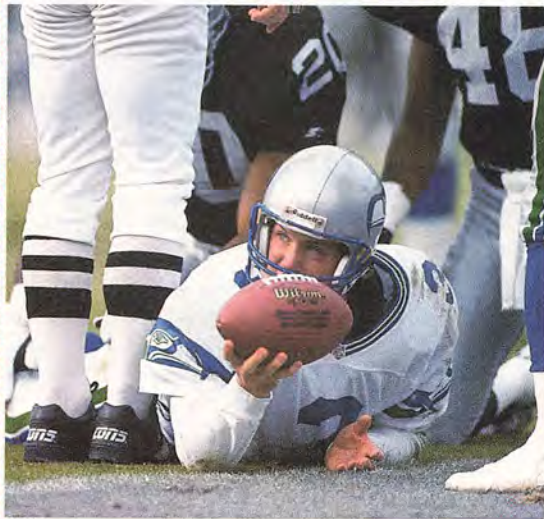
Last season it was the Lions, who parlayed a fifth-place schedule into a 10-6 record. In 1992, it was the Chargers, who used their fifth-place schedule to go 11-5. Note a pattern

here? We do, so we'll pick Seattle as this season's quick riser. The Seahawks get to play five games against other last-place clubs. They collected two great Bills (tackle Howard Ballard and cornerback Nate Odomes) as free agents, and drafted stud defensive end Sam Adams to take pressure off Cortez Kennedy. If second-year quarterback Rick Mirer develops as everyone thinks he will, the Seahawks should improve—not to the Super Bowl, mind you, but to about 10-6.

4. Who will be the first coach fired?

A year ago, remarkably, no coach was axed by midseason. No such luck this time. By our count, at least six NFL head men enter September walking a narrow ledge that a few seem bound to slip off by November. Our best bet: Indianapolis's Ted Marchibroda. At 63, Marchibroda enters the season with retreat Harbaugh at quarterback and a squad that's highly dependent on rookies or guys coming back from serious injuries. Problem is, he's got to win now. The Irsays, owner Bob and general manager Ted, aren't exactly known for calm patience. □

Rick Mirer



Al Messerschmidt

Thurman Thomas



John Sothou Bernstein Assoc. Inc.

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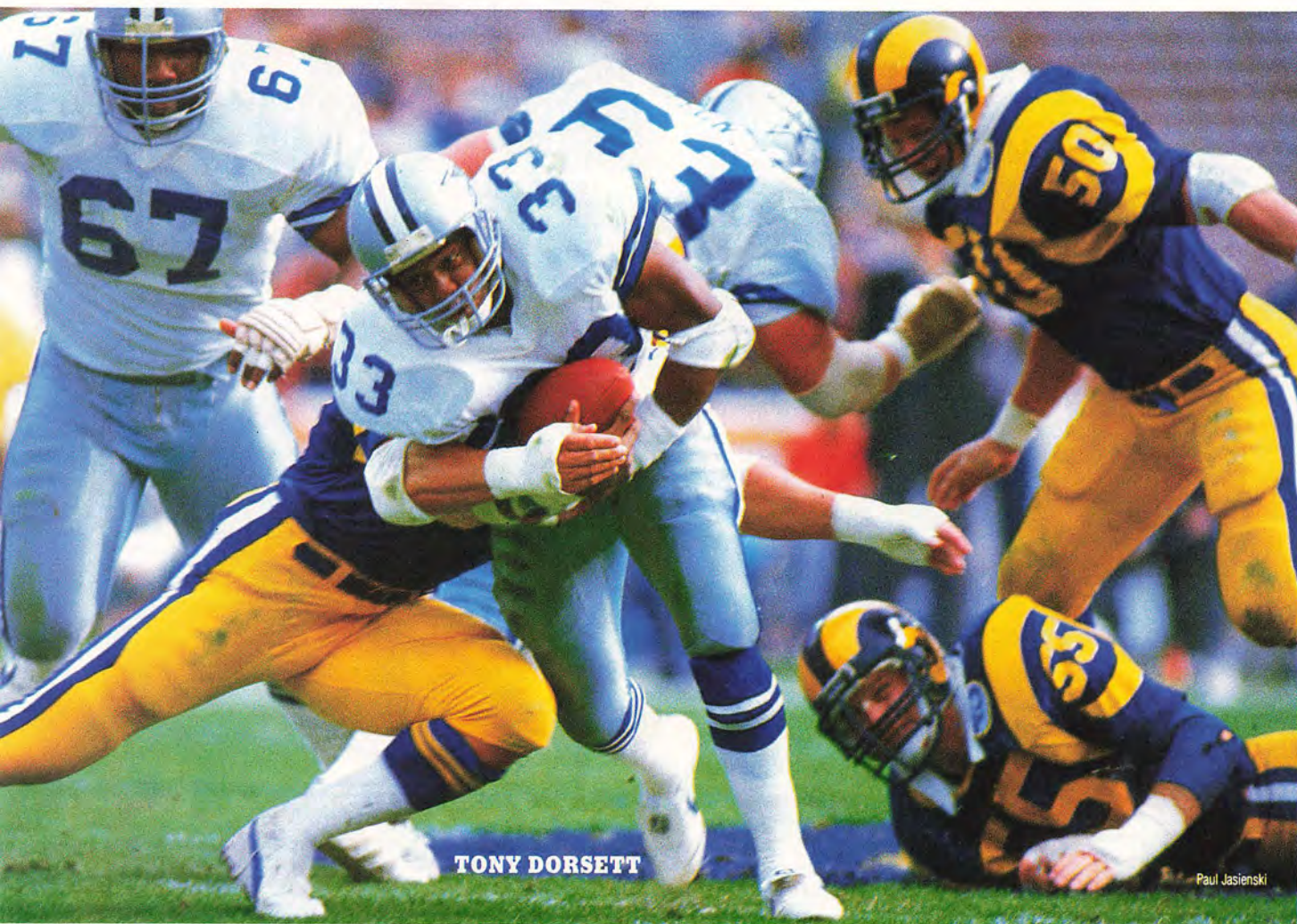
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HALL OF FAME

by **JIM O'BRIEN**

They come to Canton, Ohio each summer to be celebrated during what former National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle referred to as "pro football's greatest weekend." They come to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, the greatest accolade their sport has to offer. The overflowing crowd fills the hillside and almost every available spot leading up to the steps of the Hall of Fame, and passersby on the highway often honk their car horns to signal their best wishes for the newest inductees. Fans often wear their team colors, and call out to their favorites.

Each player is introduced by someone special in his life, typically a coach or owner—or in the case of Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears in 1993, by his son. Then the player comes to the podium to express his feelings, and usually pays tribute to the people who helped fashion his football career. It's sentimental stuff, sprinkled heavily with nostalgia, sometimes moving, sad, humorous reflections. This summer the induction ceremonies begin at 10 A.M. on July 30 and, as always, are free to the public.

The class of 1994 is a good one: Tony Dorsett and Randy White of the Dallas Cowboys,

Leroy Kelly of the Cleveland Browns, Jimmy Johnson of the San Francisco 49ers, Jackie Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals, and Bud Grant, coach of the Minnesota Vikings.

RANDY WHITE

Honors have always come quickly for White and Dorsett, former teammates in Dallas. Both were inducted into the Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.

White was an All-America at the University of Maryland (one of the few schools to recruit him) and won the Lombardi Award and the Outland Trophy, the linemen's answer to the Heisman Trophy. He was a first-round pick in the 1975 draft, but the Cowboys weren't sure what they had when they first got him. Gil Brandt, the team's player personnel director, envisioned White as the second coming of Dick Butkus, a dominating linebacker of that era. "Here was this guy who weighed [at the time] 240 pounds, big and strong, who could run a 4.7 40," Brandt recalled. "You hear about guys like that. But you just don't see them very often."

White was the real thing all right, but as a lineman, not a linebacker. He was happy to

get back into the front, in the weakside slot with the "Doomsday Defense" at Dallas. "It was just like somebody took the handcuffs off and I could go play," he said. The Cowboys prided themselves on playing within a system, but White was so good that he was given the freedom to play his own game, when the opportunity presented itself. "Randy's performances range anywhere from spectacular to spectacular," his coach, the normally reserved Tom Landry, once said.

The Cowboys, one of the most celebrated and popular teams in recent pro football history—indeed "America's Team"—featured such players as Roger Staubach, Bob Lilly, Drew Pearson, Harvey Martin, Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Charlie Waters, and Dorsett wearing the silver and blue uniforms. White, their 6-4, 265-pound tackle, was one of the prime reasons for their long-running success.

TONY DORSETT

When Johnny Majors became the head coach at the University of Pittsburgh in 1973, the first recruit he visited was Dorsett. At that time, Dorsett was about 5-10 and 160 pounds, and some thought him too small for big-time college football. He came from an area in western Pennsylvania that had produced tough players: Hall of Famers Mike Ditka and

Joe Namath, as well as Joe Walton and Babe Parilli, among others.

Dorsett was special. He would add an inch and about 25 pounds somewhere along the way, and he rewrote the college record book with his hard-slashing running. He became the first college back to rush for at least 1,000 in each of his four seasons and the first to gain more than 1,500 yards in three of them. As a senior, he ran for 1,948 (raising his career total to an NCAA-record 6,082 yards) and 21 touchdowns and won the Heisman Trophy while leading Pitt to a national championship. He had that speed and he could cut.

The Cowboys wanted him badly. But so did the Seattle Seahawks, in only their second season of operation, who had the first pick in the 1977 draft. The Cowboys sent the Seahawks their first-round pick (No. 24) and three second-round choices, the kind of package that would help the Seahawks stock a fledgling team. It was a risk, but one that paid off handsomely for the Cowboys. They had traded up in the past to land the likes of great defensive linemen such as Lilly, Jones, and White, and this time they landed a unique and elusive runner to spark their offense.

Dorsett became the first player ever to gain more than 1,000 yards in each of his first five pro seasons. He had 1,000-yard efforts eight times in nine years, his only miss coming in the strike-shortened 1982 season. Overall, he played 11 seasons with the Cowboys and a final one with the Denver Broncos, finishing with 12,739 yards rushing and 16,326 total yards. He passed Jim Brown in both categories and ranked second only to Walter Payton at the time of his retirement.

"When I leaf through the pages of my scrapbook someday," declared Dorsett, "I can smile about what I have done."

JACKIE SMITH

He was the prototype tight end of his day, in the same mold as Ditka. He starred for 15 years with the St. Louis Cardinals (1963 to

1977) and finished with one season in Dallas. Only one pass was ever thrown to him during his time with the Cowboys, and it came in Super Bowl XIII against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Smith was wide open in the end zone but dropped a ball thrown to him by Staubach. It became the most celebrated play in Smith's career because the Cardinals never got much national TV attention. That was unfortunate, for Smith was an outstanding NFL receiver and all-round performer.

His story is an inspirational one. In high school, he was often injured or ill and played only five games. He starred on the track team as a hurdler, however, and was offered a half scholarship to Northwestern Louisiana. If he agreed to play football, he could get the other

half. So he did. He was 6-4 and 235 pounds with 4.7 speed in the 40, as good as many wide receivers, but didn't show much in the way of statistics. He was taken on the 10th round of the 1963 draft by the Cardinals.

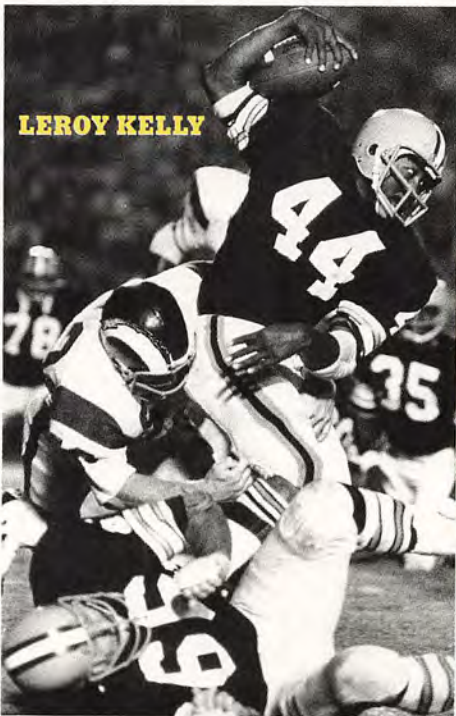
When he retired from pro football after the 1978 season, Smith ranked as the No. 1 tight end in NFL history, with 480 receptions for 7,918 yards and 40 touchdowns. His best season was 1967, when he caught 56 passes for 1,205 yards and nine TDs and was named to the all-NFL team. He caught 40 or more passes seven times and was selected to play in the Pro Bowl after five of those seasons. His 16.5-yard per-catch average was a testament to his speed and hard-running ability. He broke tackles. He was a punishing blocker, a

JACKIE SMITH



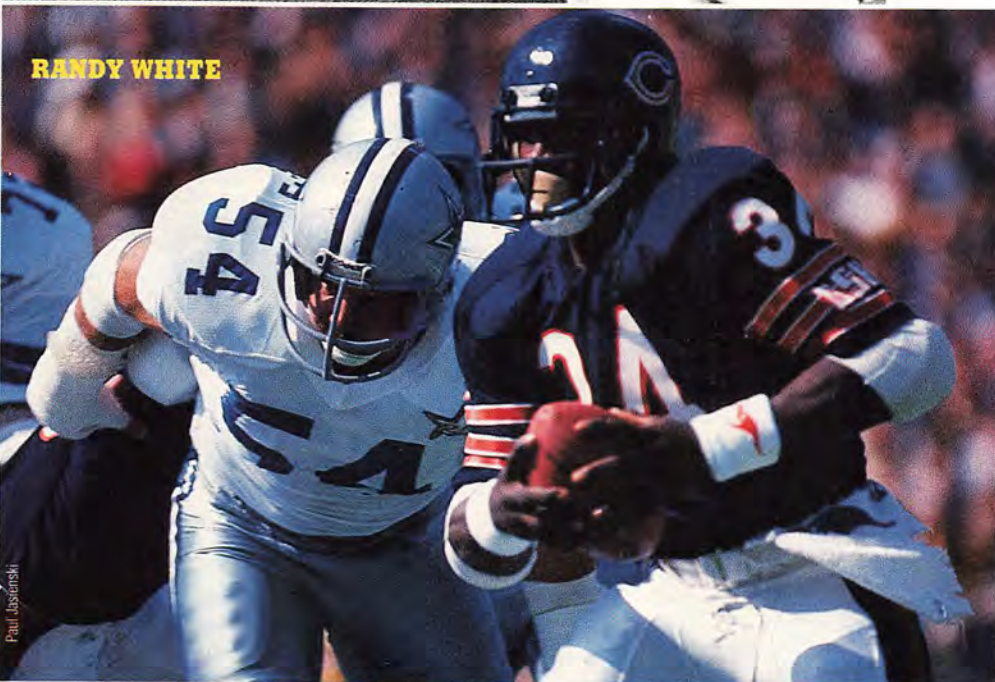
Herb Weisman

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fierce competitor, and even filled in as a kick-returner in emergencies.

"I never wanted to give up before I had to," said Smith, in explaining his unrelenting style. "[My] teammates were all out there working hard, and it was a great obligation to them to get every bit of yardage I could."

LEROY KELLY

This man had a tough act to follow. He's just glad he got the opportunity to follow Jim Brown when he did, a few years earlier than he might have if Brown had chosen to continue his pro football career. Brown was at the top of his game, gaining yardage faster than any other back in pro football history, when he retired in 1965 after nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns to pursue a movie career. It provided an opening for Kelly, a Morgan State alumnus who had carried the ball only 43 times in his first two pro seasons.

In his first season as a regular, Kelly came through in a big-time manner, averaging 5.5 yards on 209 carries for 1,141 yards and a league-leading 15 touchdowns. He won NFL rushing championships with 1,200-plus yards the next two years. In 1968, he led the NFL in scoring with 120 points on 20 touchdowns. Kelly's 10-year career stats are impressive, especially considering that was primarily on special teams in his first two seasons. He rushed 1,727 times for 7,274 yards and 74 touchdowns, had 2,281 yards and 13 TDs on 190 receptions, and added 990 yards and

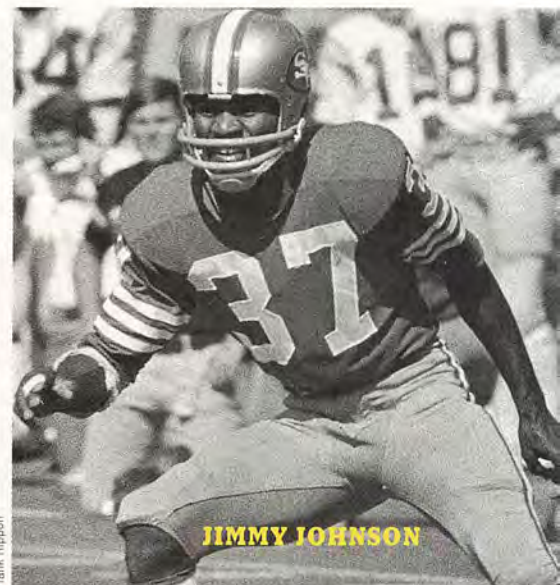
three touchdowns as a punt returner and 1,778 yards on kickoff returns to finish with a combined net total of 12,329 yards, ranking fourth in rushing and combined net yards at the time of his retirement.

Browns fans didn't think it would take long for Kelly to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he retired after the 1973 season, but it didn't happen until his 16th year of eligibility. At least he didn't have to wait that long to get his chance to carry the ball for the Browns. Said Kelly, "If Jim Brown had played a few more years—and he certainly could have done that—I might never have had the chance I had. All I ever wanted to do was to be Leroy Kelly and do the best job I could."

JIMMY JOHNSON

None of the new Hall of Famers can appreciate Kelly's comment any more than Jimmy Johnson. He, too, had a tough act to follow, right from the start of his athletic career. His older brother was Rafer Johnson, the 1960 Olympic decathlon champion, once hailed as "the world's greatest athlete." Jimmy Johnson's desire to succeed was spawned by the accomplishments of his older brother.

"I've got another brother who dropped out of sports because he got tired of having people tell him to follow in Rafer's footsteps," Jim recalled. "They gave me the same jazz. I didn't like it, either, but instead of letting it bug me, I decided to accept it as a challenge to see if I could make it on my own in sports."



Frank Rippon

JIMMY JOHNSON

With his election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the former 49ers defensive back has indeed made a name for himself.

Being Jimmy Johnson was pretty special, too. The captain of the football, basketball, and baseball teams in high school at Kingsburg, California, Johnson played wingback and defensive back at Santa Monica City College and then at UCLA. He was a big-play

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performer as a rusher or receiver and was named the Bruins' best blocker and tackler. He was also an honor student his junior and senior years and became an outstanding track man with a 13.9 time in the high hurdles and a 25-foot long jump.

Johnson was one of the 49ers' three first-round draft picks in 1961. He was projected as a wide receiver in the 49ers' plans but suffered a broken wrist in practice for the college All-Star Game. He played with a cast on his hand, and couldn't catch a football very well,

so he was shifted to safety, where he had five interceptions as a rookie. He returned to offense in his second year, then switched again to defensive back, blossoming to the point where most quarterbacks simply avoided throwing into his area of coverage.

He didn't get named to the Hall of Fame until his 14th season of eligibility, but Johnson was used to waiting his turn for recognition. He was not named all-pro until 1969 and not selected to his first Pro Bowl until the following season. In his 16 years with the 49ers, however, he intercepted 47 passes, which he returned for 615 yards, both club records until they were broken by Ronnie Lott, a sure-fire future Hall of Famer.

BUD GRANT

He was clearly one of the premier coaches, but Bud Grant had to wait longer than he deserved to get voted into the Hall of Fame for one reason: While Minnesota was a dominant team over two decades, it failed four times to win a Super Bowl. His best quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, the famous "Purple People Eater" defensive line headed by Carl Eller and Alan Page, and many of the Vikings were short-changed because they came up short in the Big One. It works both ways. The Pittsburgh Steelers won all four of their Super Bowl appearances and that stamped the team and its players for all-time greatness.

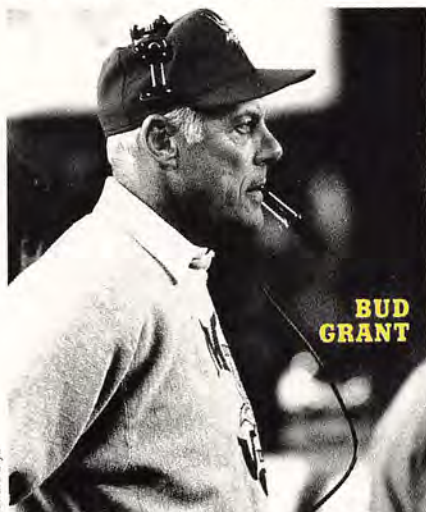
Grant always did it his way. He didn't believe in conducting a long training camp or in

long workouts. He waited until the week before the first preseason game to call his team to practice. He shunned having a strength coach, though his teams were among the most physical in pro football. He wouldn't permit space heaters on the sidelines in the coldest weather. "Their attention should be on the field," he explained, "not worrying about where the heater is." His ice-blue eyes often appeared frozen on the sideline. He was a stoic figure in the fashion of the Dallas Cowboys' Tom Landry.

"To me, football is a game of controlled emotion," said Grant. "If the head coach panics or loses his poise, then his team follows. I've seen head coaches running up and down the sidelines yelling at officials or their players. They can't possibly know what is going on."

There is no denying that Grant is getting into the Hall of Fame on merit. In his 18 seasons as the coach, the Vikings won 168 games, including 10 playoff contests, placing him eighth all-time in the NFL record book. His teams were generally well-balanced and won 11 Central Division crowns, the National Football League championship in 1969, and NFC titles in 1973, 1974, and 1976. In addition, Grant had a great record as a coach in the Canadian Football League, where he won four Grey Cups. □

Jim O'Brien is the author of two books about the glory days of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Doing It Right and Whatever It Takes.



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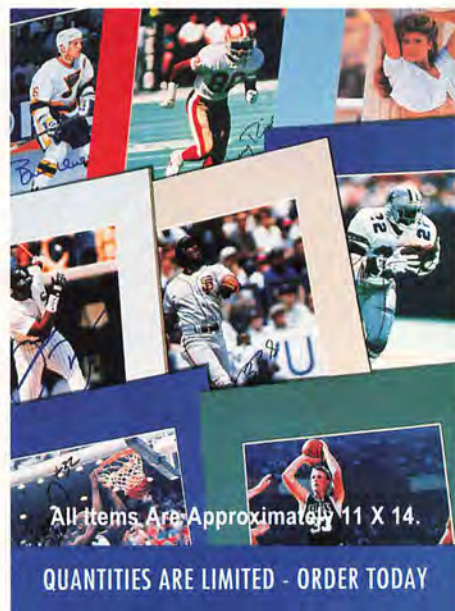
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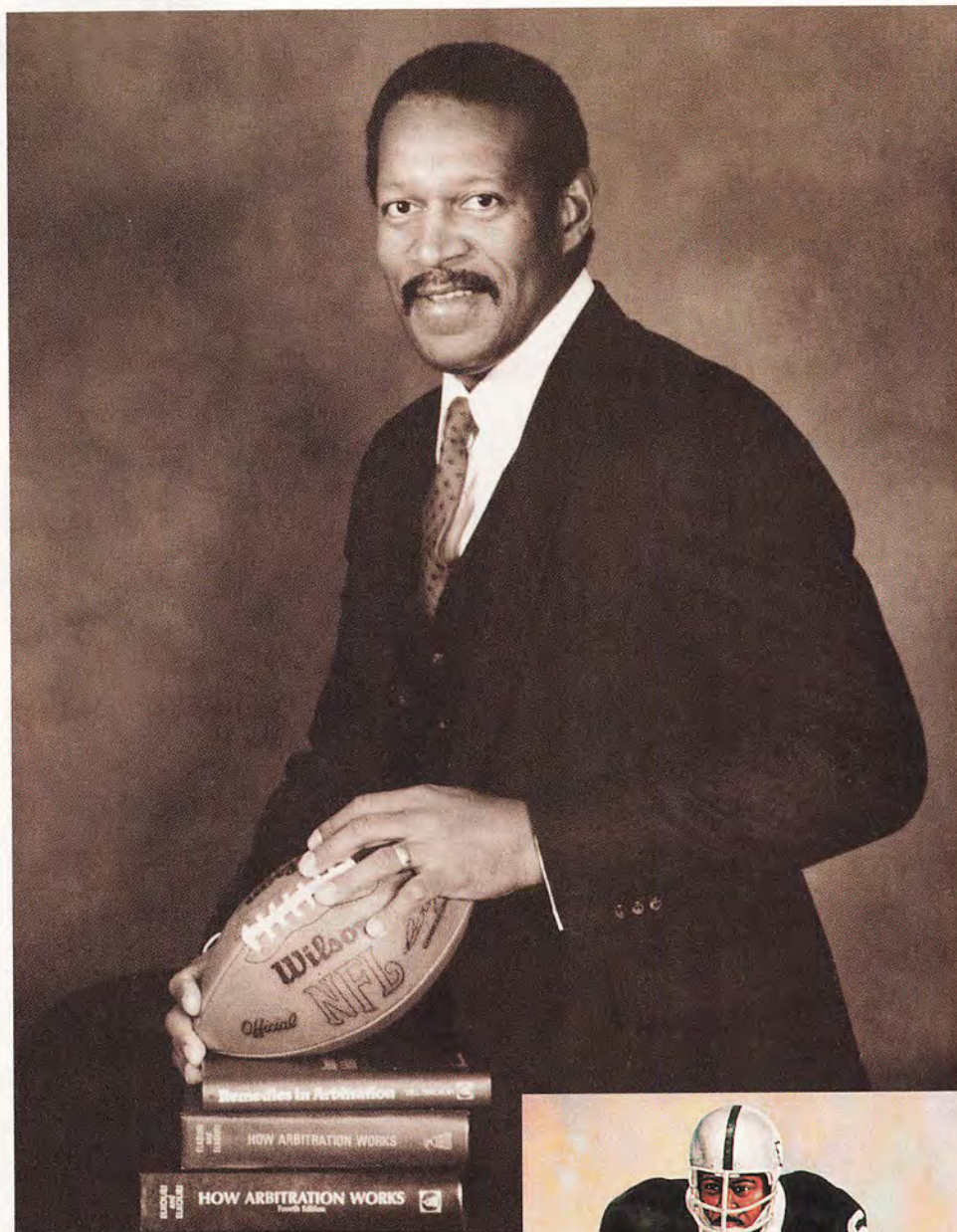
PASSING YARDAGE

Fran Tarkenton	47,003
Dan Fouts	43,040
MARINO, Dan, Dolphins	40,720
Johnny Unitas	40,239
MONTANA, Joe, Chiefs	37,268
Jim Hart	34,665
ELWAY, John, Broncos	34,246
DeBERG, Steve	33,872
MOON, Warren, Vikings	33,685
John Hadl	33,513
SIMMS, Phil, Giants	33,462
Ken Anderson	32,838
Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
John Brodie	31,548
Norm Snead	30,558
KRIEG, Dave, Lions	30,485
Joe Ferguson	29,817
Roman Gabriel	29,444
ESIASON, Boomer, Jets	29,092
Len Dawson	28,711
Y.A. Tittle	28,339
Ron Jaworski	28,190
Terry Bradshaw	27,989
Ken Stabler	27,938
Craig Morton	27,908
Joe Namath	27,663
George Blanda	26,920
Steve Grogan	26,886
Bobby Layne	26,768
KELLY, Jim, Bills	26,413
Joe Theismann	25,206
O'BRIEN, Ken	25,094
Bob Griese	25,092
Bob Starr	24,718
Neil Lomax	22,771
Roger Staubach	22,700
KOSAR, Bernie, Dolphins	22,314
Danny White	21,959

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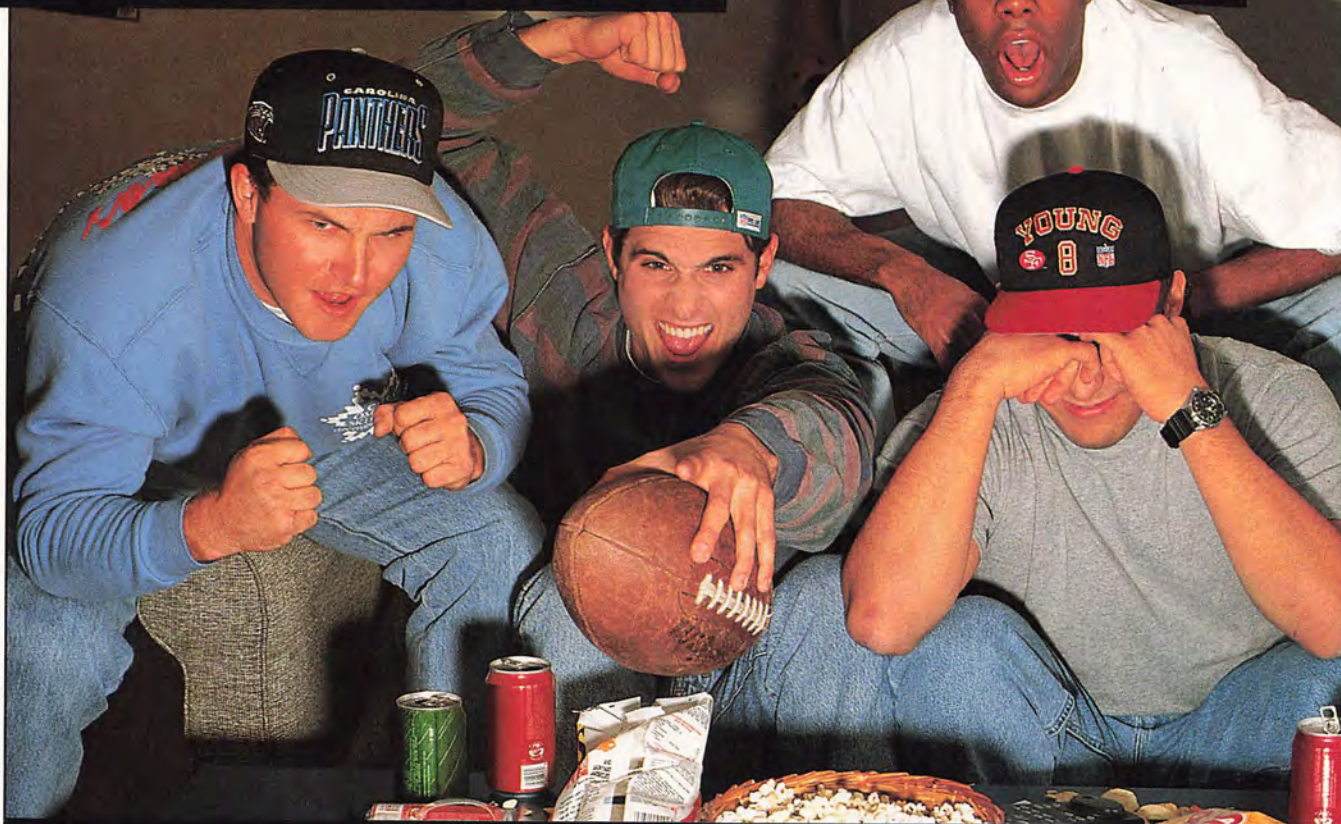
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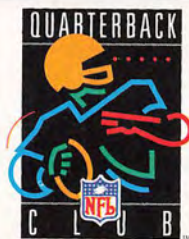
Gene Upshaw #63
Executive Director, NFLPA



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Barry Sanders-- What Makes This Guy Tick

By Tom Kowalski

Barry Sanders was minding his own business, picking over the fruit at a local market when he was approached by a young man in his 20s.

"Hey, I know you," the young man said excitedly.

Sanders turned with a frown. He was preparing his practiced routine: "No, I'm sorry. You must be mistaken." Politely, firmly, and back to the fruit. Before Sanders could respond, the young man said, "I've played ball against you up at the school."

The frown melted. Sanders shook his hand and they talked hoops for several minutes, discussing the players and the daily pickup games at the community college gym. Basketball is Sanders' true passion. Given the choice, he once said he'd rather be the starting guard on the U.S. Olympic Basketball team than go down as the greatest running back ever.

The two men shook hands again, saying they'd look forward to seeing each other again soon and parted ways. Sanders walked back to his fruit, the young man walked on air. He knew he had just been talking with Barry Sanders, arguably the best running back in the NFL, but he also knew—from Sanders' demeanor at the gym and his reaction to people who swooned over him—that Sanders would dismiss him with a halfhearted smile and a wave if the young man had recognized him as a football superstar instead of a guy who plays pickup ball.

Lions strong safety **William White**, one of Sanders' closest friends, was a passenger when Sanders was pulled over by the police. The officer looked at the driver's license and asked, "Are you **THE** Barry Sanders?"

"Uh, no," Sanders said. He got the ticket.

"I'll say it's amazing and that I can't believe he did that, but when you consider it's Barry it's not surprising at all. That's the way he is," White said. "I don't know anybody else who would've done that."

And how many 20-year-olds have blown off a



Barry Sanders cruises.

Tim Thompson Photo

dinner invitation with the leader of the free world? After winning the Heisman Trophy in 1988, Sanders turned down a White House invitation. Gotta study, he said.

So what makes this guy tick? What motivations could drive him through a disappointing high school career when his coach ignored him until the last half of his senior season when he set a city record for rushing yardage. What drove him through a frustrating college career that saw him play backup for two seasons before setting the NCAA's all-time single-season rushing record?

What makes this guy tick?

It obviously isn't fame. The young man in the market will tell you that. So will William White. So will the folks in his hometown of Wichita who threw a two-day Barry Sanders Celebration, only to have the honoree show up a day late.

It must be the money. Here's a kid, one of 11 by William and Shirley Sanders, raised in a one-story, three-bedroom home who bolted college early to grab NFL riches. His first contract was for \$5.9 million, including a \$2.1 million signing bonus. Sanders promptly donated \$210,000—

(Continued On Page 61)

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What Makes This Guy Tick

(Continued From Page 59)

it's called tithing—to his place of worship, the Paradise Baptist Church in Wichita.

OK, so maybe it's not the money.

It's got to be the ego. The record books. The burning desire to be the greatest running back ever. The glory.

In his rookie season, Sanders was 10 yards short of passing Kansas City's Christian Okoye for the NFL rushing title.

Sanders, who amassed his total on 90 fewer carries, was easily going to pass Okoye in the fourth quarter of the season finale in Atlanta. But the Lions were routing the Falcons and Sanders went to the sideline. He told head coach Wayne Fontes it was only right that backup Tony Paige get some playing time.

"I don't want a record or a title for the sake of getting a record or title," Sanders said. "If it comes in the course of the season and winning games, I'll take it."

OK, maybe it's something else. But what?

You know, some guys become athletes to get the girls. Sanders' social calendar is hardly empty, but he's no Casanova either. He plans to remain celibate until he gets married. He even cut a video with NBA star A.C. Green and other pro athletes to encourage youngsters to abstain from sex. Of course—and this is a real shocker—he refused to go on the "Donahue" show to promote the video.

"I'm not saying I'm a virgin or anything, but I've decided I'm not going to have sex with a woman until we get married," Sanders said.

Sanders comes from a deeply religious family and strongly adheres to the Baptist faith, so maybe that's it. Perhaps Sanders will promote his religion on the stage he's been granted as an NFL superstar. After all, a lot of athletes begin interviews with "I'd like to thank the Lord, Jesus Christ..." and a lot of players kneel down and say prayers in the end zone after scoring touchdowns. But Sanders has never done either one.

"Showing off," he says. "I don't know how sincere that stuff is."

In fact, Sanders will not discuss his religion unless he's asked about it.

Growing up, Sanders attended church every Sunday but didn't always follow the path of righteousness. He stole candy, got into fights in school, and was once arrested for trespassing. Not exactly a Dillinger-like crime wave, but Sanders was uncomfortable with himself.

"I had considered myself a Christian before that, but I was living a life contrary to what God

wanted," Sanders said. "I became a Christian the summer before coming to the Lions (in 1989). I attended a Christian conference in Phoenix. I saw how hypocritical I'd been and that I had to get my life straight—to get straight with God."

Shirley Sanders doesn't care much about the



Barry Sanders recognizes fans.

Jose Juarez Photo

yardage her son gains or the touchdowns he scores. She wants him to be a good man, a good husband, a good father. That's how she raised him, how she raised all her children.

"I'm a lot like my mother. At least, I try to be," Sanders said. "She doesn't talk to hear herself talk. I've never seen her take a drink. I've never heard her curse. She's a Christian woman, a real one."

"I try to pattern myself after her. She has high standards. I try to live up to hers and I fail, but then most people do."

Perhaps, but the way Sanders has carried himself on and off the field, there's no denying he's a superstar.

Not even to a young hoop player or a cop.

Then, while other first-round draft choices were buying up Beamers, Jags, and all the gold jewelry their thick necks could handle without falling over forward, Sanders purchased a supermarket.

"It was ready to shut down," Sanders said at the time. "For the neighborhood, it would've been a real blow. A lot of the people there have low incomes and would have trouble getting transportation to a new market if it closed. And there's a senior citizen's home a block or two away that really depends on it, too."

Shrewd, eh?

Of course, Sanders could easily make up any losses with all that endorsement money he has rolling in.

(Continued On Page 73)

Free Agency: A New Era In Football

By Frank Woschitz

Free agency is changing professional football as no other concept has affected it since television put the game in the living rooms of millions of fans more than 40 years ago.

The system of free agency will:

- *allow long suffering fans of perennial losers to cheer for winners;

- *give players who have spent most of their careers on the bench a chance for stardom;

- *provide a pool of outstanding players who can make the expansion teams instantly competitive;

- *popularize the game year around and compete with baseball's hot-stove league for off season publicity;

- *set attendance records and new horizons for television.

In short, it will revolutionize America's favorite professional sport with positive effects for fans, players, owners, and the game, itself.

These predictions are almost a sure thing for 1994, since they have already come true in the first year of transition from football as it has been for 74 years to the exciting 1993 season.

Cases in point: Green Bay fans were grumbling and almost rebellious in the fifth game of the 1993 season as the Packers squandered away a 30-7 lead to 30-27 with two minutes left in the game. The team that had been most active in the free agent market stood at one

victory and three losses and faced virtual extinction from championship contention.

To compound the problem, Denver with **John Elway** in charge had possession at midfield. His last minute heroics are legendary, and he looked confident even though he faced a third down and 10 on the Packer 43-yard line.

In an instant the momentum changed as 1993's most famous (and expensive) free agent, **Reggie White**, fought off blockers to sack Elway for 8 and 14-yard losses on successive plays to clinch the victory.

So excited were the fans that 5,000 refused to leave,

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Free Agency is good for:

- 1) The Fan
- 2) The Player
- 3) The Owner
- 4) The Game
- 5) All of the Above

screaming "Reggie, Reggie, Reggie" until Reggie took the microphone and spoke to them.

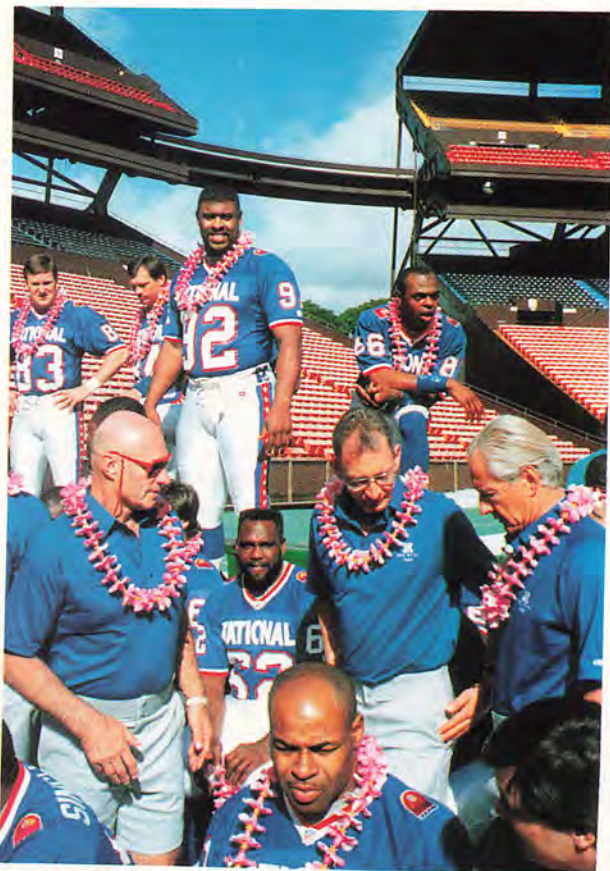
That game was the turning point as the Packers went on to the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

Free Agency also benefited the sophisticated fans in New York City as the Giants rebounded from a disastrous season in 1992 to the playoffs under new coach **Dan Reeves** and veteran quarterback **Phil Simms**.

The Giants avoided the quarterback controversy that had plagued them since their last Super Bowl win in 1990 as **Jeff Hostetler** opted for free agency and moved to the Los Angeles Raiders, giving Simms the opportunity. He threw for 3,038 yards and ranked third in the NFC passing statistics. He showed no ill effects from a year of exile on the bench.

The domino effect continued as Hostetler solved the Raider's quarterback problem and led them back to the playoffs after a losing '92 season. Hostetler's passes gained 3,242 and accounted for 14 touchdowns.

It was almost a case of one-upmanship all season long. In the opening game Hostetler completed 18 of his 19 passes as the Raiders routed the Vikings. Then it was Simms' turn as he threw three touchdown passes in a 41-7 win over Washington in week 6 of the NFL. Two weeks later,



Reggie White (92) stands out at Pro Bowl

Hostetler passed for a Raider record 434 yards, while down the stretch Simms' passes resulted in narrow victories over Phoenix and Miami.

Neither Hostetler or Simms could have combined for those totals on a single team, and both could have been cut as aging stars. Instead their careers have taken on new life.

Another player who was rejuvenated because he got a chance to play was **Marcus Allen**. In **Al Davis'** dog house, Allen was little used on the



Phil Sims

Vernon Biever Photo

Raiders in 1992, but in 1993 he became an offensive powerhouse augmenting the passing of Joe Montana on the Kansas City Chiefs who advanced to the AFC championship game.

Allen gained 764 yards, scored 12 touchdowns, and made himself a valuable asset. In the previous season, he ran for just 164 yards and two touchdowns.

So, long suffering fans of losing teams and players relegated to the bench on previous teams love free agency.

Players' salaries have boomed too—reaching an average of \$727,000 in 1993. In four years the average salary has more than doubled.

Does the salary cap stifle teams' ability to sign winners? Not really. Many owners will spend less to get under the cap, but more owners will be forced to spend more because there is

a minimum level that all teams must reach.

In fact, the highest salaried teams in 1991 would rank at the bottom for 1994. So players have a larger pot and it has been redistributed across the league.

How do the owners feel about free agency? Well, the winners under the old system will not be happy. The rest of the owners will profit, filling stadiums, feeding their egos, building a franchise.

Before, the only way to build was through the draft, but that was a slow process. The last place team—no. 28—has just one pick ahead of the previous Super Bowl winner. From that point on the losers were picking behind the playoff teams.

In the era before free agency, only one player, defensive back **Norm Thompson**, moved through free agency. Trades were limited. Most teams shored up weaknesses by picking up castoffs.

In 1993, more than 120 veteran free agents changed teams, with similar results this year.

The new system with free agency, trades, and the draft, is preferable to the club owners, too. Buffalo's **Ralph Wilson** said, "The overall system is effective because you have a lot of different ways of building a club."

"Our new player system balances free agency with features to promote competitive balance," says NFL executive vice president for labor relations **Harold Henderson**. Let's hope so.

In the last 16 years competitive balance has been a myth. Just seven teams, or 25% of the total, have held Super Bowl titles. Dallas, Washington, and San Francisco have won 10 Super Bowls.

Teams making the playoffs shows similar dominance. Five teams have made the playoffs more than half the time since 1978 (16 years). Another six teams have edged into the playoffs half the time.

In baseball since 1978 (its heyday of free agency), 14 different teams have won the World Series. Only Toronto and Minnesota have repeated. Minnesota in the American League and Atlanta and Philadelphia in the National went from "worst to first" to win league pennants.

Labor peace finally has led to expansion. And the two new teams, Jacksonville and Charlotte, will have a much better chance to reach parity with some astute decisions on free agents available in 1995. The last two teams to enter the league in 1976, Seattle and Tampa, have been to the playoffs only four and three times, respectively. The new expansion teams will do much better than that.

Finally, free agency will give the game a real shot of adrenaline. Some critics had claimed that the game had grown tiresome, predictable, in need of change in rules, etc.

Free agency has caused more change than any tinkering with the rules and the astute fans realize this. Last season attendance records were set; more TV network bidding occurred, and plans are moving forward toward new leagues to satisfy the insatiable appetite of football fans.

The future is unlimited as the fans, the players, the owners, and the game, itself, move toward the 21st century and more spectacular growth.



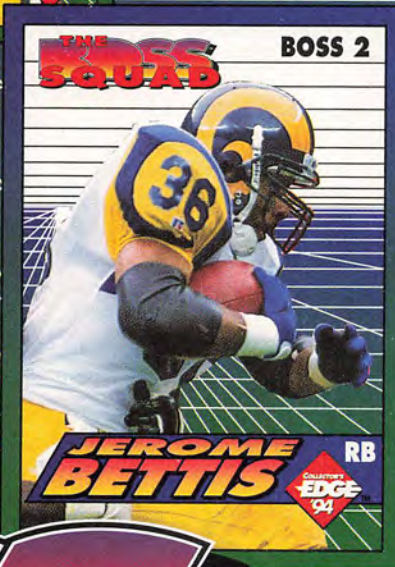
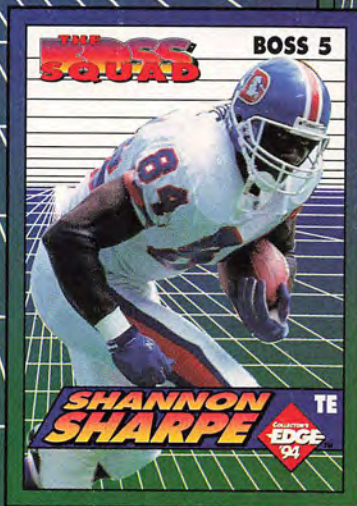
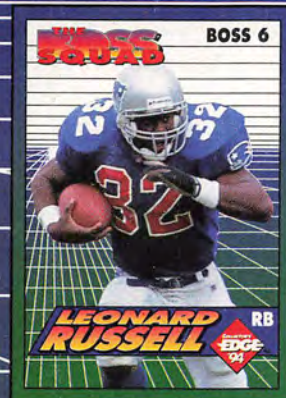
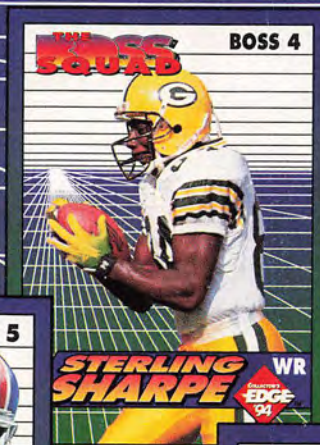
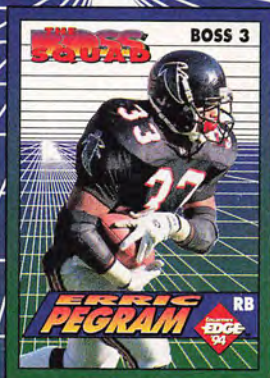
Jeff Hostetler

Vernon Biever Photo

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Year Of The Kicker

By Bob Carroll

Nearly one out of every four points scored in the NFL in 1993 came on a field goal. Teams kicked nearly as many field goals (673) as they scored touchdowns by rushing and passing **combined** (722). And while fans decried the puny offenses or cheered the stonewall defenses that kept teams "settling" for three points at a time, they couldn't deny it was a spectacular year for placekickers.

Atlanta's **Norm Johnson**, winner of *Pro Football Weekly's* prestigious Golden Toe Trophy for 1993, missed exactly one field goal all season—a 37 yard attempt in week fifteen. Pittsburgh's **Gary Anderson** made 28 of 30 tries.

All over the league, accuracy was up. Twenty-four of the 27 men who qualified for the

"It's the mental factor," says Steelers' Gary Anderson.

championship by attempting ten or more field goals made good on at least two-thirds of their kicks. All of the qualifiers connected more than half their tries.

Once upon a time, anyone who could make 50 percent of his field goal attempts ranked among the elite of the league. In 1950, legendary placekicker **Lou "The Toe" Groza** was in his fifth year with the Cleveland Browns when he finally ended a season with an accuracy rate of better than 50 percent.

In 1971, when **Garopremian** won the first Golden Toe Trophy, he was successful 70 percent of the time. But last year, Atlanta's Johnson rung the bell to the tune of 96.3.

Have kickers gotten better? Johnson, who spent twelve



Lou Groza

seasons with Seattle before becoming a Falcon last year, suggests it's all in their heads. "It's an old cliché, but, in the case of placekickers, football really is 90 percent mental."

The Steelers' Anderson agrees that handling pressure is the key to great kicking. "It's the mental factor," he says. Everybody in the NFL is a very capable kicker, so what distinguishes guys are the mental aspects of the game. They are tough to define, but I think there are two of them: concentration and confidence.

"I think I can make every kick I'm put on the field to make," **Morten Andersen** of the New Orleans Saints says. "That's the way I approach it. I don't want to walk out there scared, intimidated, or tentative. You've got to be aggressive, focused, and locked in on every kick."

The necessity for complete concentration hasn't changed since Groza was banging them through the uprights for the Browns. "Every kick I ever made," says the now 70-year old Hall of Famer, "I just thought of the fundamentals: stance, approach, contact, and follow through."

When he first started kicking, Groza actually laid a piece of tape down on the field as his imaginary line. "Then the NFL ruled that out as being a 'theatrical' device."

Jack Clary, author of *PB: The Paul Brown Story*, marvels at Groza's concentration. "Remember, he was a regular offensive tackle. So he'd be blocking on every down of a ten-play drive and then go back and kick a 35-yard field goal."

All told, The Toe kicked 264 three-pointers in 481 attempts, good for 1,608 points. When he retired in 1967, he was the all-time scoring leader, and only **George Blanda** and **Jan Stenerud** rank ahead of him today.

Groza, who is fiercely proud of being elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a

(Continued On Page 67)



Norm Johnson

Falcon's Photo

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Year Of The Kicker

(Continued From Page 65)

tackle instead of as a kicker, admits there were times when keeping his concentration was tough.

"We were playing in Detroit. I'm in the huddle waiting for the play to be called when here comes **Gil Mains** (Lions defensive tackle) and he tramps on my kicking foot. Stomps on it! Then he runs back to his side of the line chuckling. I met Gil a few years ago and we laughed about that. But at the time, it hurt!"

Groza feels the biggest difference between today's kickers and those of his era is that today's kickers are all specialists. "We had to be football players first and placekickers second."

Doak Walker, a triple-threat back with Detroit from 1950-55, joined Groza in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986. He wore his regular shoes to run or pass, but when it came time to kick, he'd switch to a



The Zipper Shoe

special, flat-toed shoe equipped with a zipper so the change could be made quickly.

Groza was a "straight-ahead" kicker, meeting the ball with his famous toe. Soccer-style kickers who approach the ball at an angle and kick it with their instep have taken over the NFL today, but Lou doesn't think the difference in techniques is that important.

He also feels that moderns have other advantages.

For example, the field has been narrowed. "They moved



Nick Lowery on board NCL Cruise Ship

Frank Woschitz Photo

in the hash marks to help the running game, but it also helped the kicking. Today, the kicks are almost always straight on. When we kicked, you could get some really extreme angles, especially on shorter kicks."

Groza notes that more than half the NFL fields last season were covered with artificial turf—a big plus for a placekicker. "The footing is better and there are no holes to step in. We played a lot of fields that were also used for baseball."

Seven current NFL stadiums boast indoor fields. **Jan Stenerud**, the only man elected to the Hall of Fame as a "pure" kicker, adds, "Kicking in the cold presents many problems. In Green Bay, the ball seemed frozen and hard. Only about two-thirds of the ball was visible in the stadium grass which was cut very long to preserve it against the rugged winter. Turf and indoor stadiums are ideal for kickers."

Groza is quick to give credit to today's kickers. Kansas City's **Nick Lowery** is a favorite, but "there are so many good ones."

Morten Anderson isn't surprised that there are more good kickers today. "Athletes in general are getting bigger, stronger, and faster," he says. "And today's kids get better coaching earlier, train harder, and respond to the increased emphasis on the skill."

But surprisingly, the idea that NFL teams are "going for three" at a manic rate is an illusion. When Saints kicker **Tom Dempsey** set the all-time distance record with a monster 63-yard kick in 1970, games averaged 4.4 field goal attempts, and kickers league-wide connected at a .594 rate. In 1993, the league averaged only 3.9 tries per game—yet there were 195 **more** field goals than in 1970. Yes, two more games have been added to schedules since 1970, but the main reason for the increase in three-pointers was 1993's spectacular accuracy rate of .780.

In the NFL's Year of the Kicker, every team had its Groza.

Bob Carroll is the author of 27 books on sports and the executive director of the Professional Football Researchers Association.

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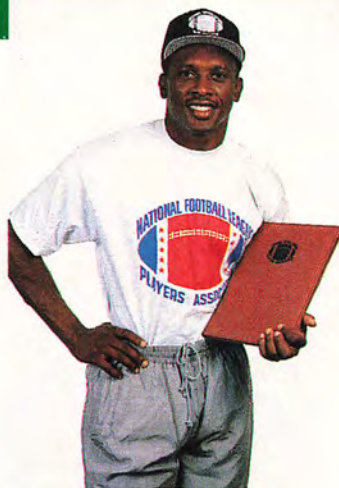
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By Gabriella Mazzucca

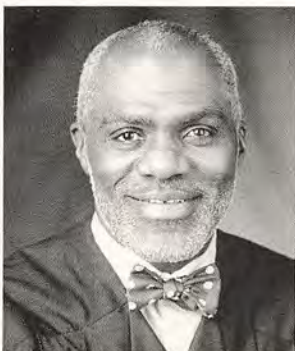
The lights fade and the fanfare dies. As a player walks off the field for the last time his mind reels with conflicting thoughts—“What happens next? Will I ever play again? Will anyone remember me tomorrow?”

The shift from the playing field to the business world is not always an easy one and many players have trouble making the transition.

Not all though. Some have broken through the stereotype and gone on to careers in very different fields.

If he had never had another achievement in his career, **Alan Page**, former DT for the Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears, would still be credited as the only lineman ever to be named the NFL's Most Valuable Player, an award he earned in 1971.

However, much more was in store for Page. During his 12 years in the NFL, the Hall of Famer won many awards.



Judge Alan Page

However his finest achievement came last year when Page, who has served in the state of Minnesota Attorney General's office since 1985, was elected Associate Justice of the State Superior Court in Minnesota.

Long an advocate of youth education, he established the Page Education Foundation in 1988. It is a non-profit scholarship funding program, founded to encourage



Ambassador Sidney Williams, Representative Maxine Waters and Deputy Chief of Protocol Fred Duwall

youths— particularly minorities— to continue their education after high school.

He has spent years teaching young people the importance of going beyond athletics, something he accomplished with great success.

Former NFL players have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, legislators— even a Supreme Court Judge. However, no player had ever been appointed to a position as a foreign envoy. Until now.

Sidney Williams, who played line-backer for Cleveland, Washington, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh from 1964 until 1969, was recently named the U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas, and began his post April 1.

He has also been active in politics, serving as a legislative aide for the Los Angeles City Council's 10th District, and supporting his wife,

Maxine Waters, who is the Congresswoman for California's 29th district.

Arrayed in honors in academics and athletics, **Jack Mildren** graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1972 prepared for both a career in the NFL and in the business world.

He was drafted by the Baltimore Colts and played there for two seasons, finishing his career with New England in 1974.

He was now ready to



Lt. Gov. Jack Mildren

pursue a career in business and quickly made quite a name for himself. Well-known throughout the state of Oklahoma, Jack was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1990 and, with the same drive visible in his playing career and business activities, has quickly become a voice of leadership at the regional and national levels, serving as chairman of the Southern Region of the National Council of Lieutenant Governors and has been appointed to the Council's Executive Committee.

Are there any similarities between football and sailing? Well, one may be **Larry Mialik**, former Atlanta Falcon and San Diego Charger tight end, and now grinder for the America's Cup Sailing team.

What is a grinder? According to Larry, who sailed with *America*³ when it defeated Italy's *Il Moro di Venezia* to win the America's Cup in San Diego last May, a grinder turns the heavy winches that

control the jib and spinnaker—the two forward sails.

He believes that the mental workout involved in sailing goes

lem— America's youth. Brown says, "Football is a very small part of life. . . a lot of things going on down in the streets are much more



Sailor Larry Mialik

Daniel Forster Photo

way beyond that of football. In addition to your opponents and teammates you must deal with wind shifts, currents, boat rigging.

"The part that compares well with football is the idea of working together. The underlying foundation of both sports is attitude and participating in a team setting," says Mialik.

He began sailing as a hobby, but after meeting some of the crew from *The Heart of America*, a contender for the 1987 America's Cup trials, he decided to pursue it full-time.

PSAs, endorsements, talk show appearances aren't enough for **Jim Brown**. He's getting down and dirty in the streets working with gang members and is producing amazing results around the country.

Jim Brown, the Hall of Famer who retired at the height of his career with several rushing records, is now channeling his energies into a major social prob-

important."

He is working with gang members, primarily the Crips and Bloods in Central Los Angeles, to help them break from their gang affiliations and integrate into society.

His program, Amer-I-Can, teaches life management skills to help increase self-esteem and motivation.

Amer-I-Can is a private, for-profit organization that has been so successful that nine cities around the country are using the



Jim Brown

John Reid Photo

program, which also targets prison inmates.

Gang members who have been successful in breaking with their

pasts and have returned to school or found jobs then become teachers of the program. So far there are about 75 former gang members and ex-convicts acting as consultants.

Bob Kilcullen

always knew that one day he would be an artist. An art major in college, at Texas Tech, he put his dream on hold in 1957 when he signed with the Chicago Bears.

For 10 years he pursued a goal at odds with the peace and serenity of his paintbrush. As an end and

sion for the Prince Of Peace Catholic Church in Dallas. Kilcullen will also have a piece in the Texas Excellence Center in Dallas this June.

It's hard enough to play in the NFL, but imagine if you had to memorize all the plays in Spanish, then translate them back for the audible calls?

This was what **Benny Ricardo**, former kicker for the Minnesota Vikings did, no doubt with an air of humor.

Although Benny ended his nine year career in the top 10,



Artist Bob Kilcullen

tackle, he released violence on the playing field, explaining, "When you make up your mind to play a sport you adjust."

Eventually, he found some undeveloped land in Dallas and with backing opened the Dallas Arts District, which is home to the Dallas Arts Center.

Now he can finally pursue his dream. His works have ranged from oils to charcoal, but his specialty is bronze. He recently held an exhibit at the OK Harris Gallery in New York City and is working on a commis-

all-time best field goal percentage, he is better known for his light-hearted actions off the field.

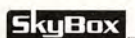
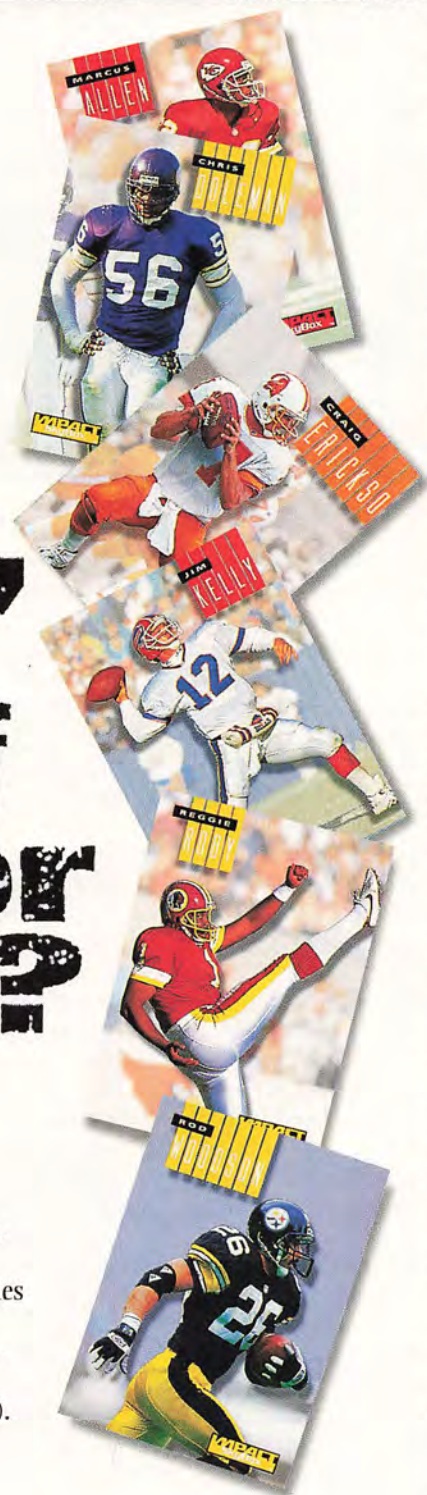
Currently a sportscaster for ESPN International, Benny is trading on his bilingual skills, proving that humor can cross the language barrier.

He is also a stand-up comic, appearing at comedy and night clubs across the country and has entertained at several NFLPA events.

Ricardo says, "It's an incredible rush to be on stage and control
(Continued On Page 73)

If you don't buy Impact, what kind of collector are you?

It's hard to trash our single series, 300-card issue. It features randomly inserted Rookie Exchange cards (odds 1:350), redeemable for up to the top 29 NFL Draft Picks in pro uniforms. Then there are two special insert sets—Instant Impact '93 Rookies (odds 1:30) and Ultimate Impact Veteran Stars (odds 1:15). Plus a special hologram featuring SkyDisc™ technology (odds 1:330). In comparison, everything else just stinks.



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20-Year Gift Of Life

A three-year mortality study of 7,000 ex-NFL players reveals that the average player will live to at least 72 years of age.

That's the same life span that an average American male can expect, so the information isn't that significant— or is it?

To NFL players it is a monumental finding, because players have been under the assumption that they have given up at least 20 years of life to play in the NFL.

That was an old wives' tale that had been floating around locker rooms for more than 25 years. So when the NFL Players Association asked the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to conduct a study, Dr. Sherry Baron, NIOSH researcher, accepted the challenge.

Certainly parents of high school and college football players would want to know, and the study should put to rest the fear that the sport is life shortening.

The fear was real to former NFL players. One seven-year veteran woke up on the eve of his 52nd birthday in a cold sweat and told his wife he had only months to live. She couldn't dissuade him without seeking professional help.

How many parents have refused to allow sons to play football because of the violence and danger. Yet Dr. Baron explains that the survey shows that football players are less prone to death by accident or violence than the average American male.

One disquieting fact emerged in Dr. Baron's research. Offensive and defensive linemen had a 50% greater risk of heart attack than players at other football positions. The warning is clear. Artificial or forced bulking up is hazardous to one's health.

As NFLPA President Mike Kenn announced to his player reps, "When we get out of this game, we'll have to hit the juice bars and yogurt shops, and bypass the beer and pretzel stands."

Where Are They Now

(Continued From Page 71)

your audiences' emotions. . . when everything's clicking, it's the same feeling you get when you put your foot into a last-second kick and the ball goes down the middle."



Frank Woschitz Photo

The long and short of it; Benny Ricardo and Ben Davidson

Barry Sanders-- What Makes This Guy Tick

(Continued From Page 61)

Peter Schaffer, one of Sanders agents, laughs, "We turn down about a half-million dollars per year.

"Barry has a few endorsements, but it comes down to his priorities with his time.

"We had one guy tell us he was ready to cut a six-figure deal and he said, 'Make him do the deal.' I said, 'Whoa, that might work for other people, but not with Barry.'

"Barry will turn that down and then turn around and give up an entire weekend— during the football season— for the

Make-A-Wish Foundation. That's the way he is."

Sanders has been through a couple of contract holdouts and recently became the highest paid running back in NFL history. You know the saying, "When someone says it's not the money, it's the principle— it's always the money."

In Sanders' case, it's the principle.

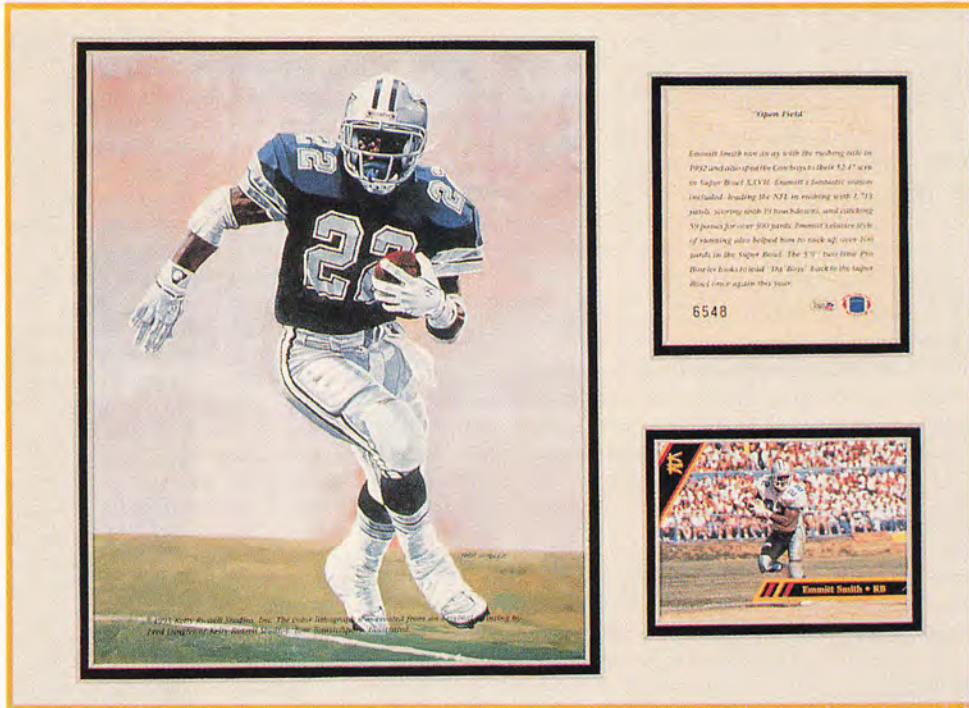
White says that Sanders—who now makes more than \$4 million per season from the Lions— comfortably lives a lifestyle of someone earning \$50,000 per year.

But Sanders' pride would not allow him to draw a paycheck that didn't match his worth, whether it's \$4 million per year or the \$3.35 an hour he made as a grocery bagger during his college years. And that's one of the reasons Sanders left Oklahoma State early. He was disillusioned with the take-take-take of college athletics.

In Detroit, Sanders still tools around in the 1989 Acura Legend he bought as a rookie. And he still cuts his own hair.

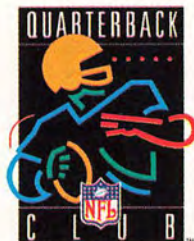
Tom Kowalski covers the Detroit Lions for the **Detroit Free Press**.

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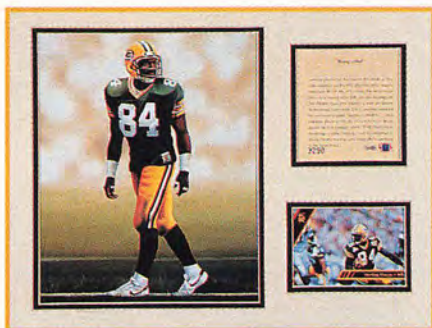
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Running Backs—Barry Foster, Thurman Thomas*, Eric Metcalf, Marion Butts, Ronnie Harmon, Lorenzo White, Emmitt Smith, Barry Sanders, Roger Craig, Neal Anderson*, Daulton Hilliard, Dave Meggett, Heath Sherman, Garrison Hearst, Ricky Watters, Tom Rathman*, Dexter Carter, Ernest Byner*.

Wide Receivers—Micheal Irvin, Rob Moore, Chris Burkett, Andre Reed, Vance Johnson, Sterling Sharpe, Cris Carter, Andre Rison, Tim Brown, Gary Clark*, John Taylor, Jerry Rice, Art Monk*.

Defensive Backs—Mel Grey, Ray Crockett, Terrell Buckley, Rod Woodson, Deion Sanders.

Linebackers—Ken Norton, Junior Seau, Derrick Thomas*, Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills*.

Defensive Linemen—William Perry, Richard Dent, Reggie White, Chris Doleman, Bruce Smith*, Cornelius Bennett, Karl Mecklenburg, Steve Emtman*, Charles Mann.

*Available Pending NFLPA Authorization.

Doug Williams — From Stardom To Obscurity And Back Again

By Rick Snider

For 15 minutes, quarterback **Doug Williams** found perfection— five drives, five touchdowns, and four scoring passes— to lead the Washington Redskins to Super Bowl XXII.

But one season later, the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player found himself back on the bench. Two years after the title, Williams was out of the National Football League. From "going to Disney World" to returning to his small hometown of Zachary, LA, it was a quick career nose-dive for Williams to privately endure.

But instead of sulking, Williams rekindled the same passion that once made him a rookie starter. Saying "you've got to go on with your life," he dropped any pretentiousness and vanity and began looking for somewhere, anywhere to coach football.

Today, Williams is the running backs coach for the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, less than one hour away from RFK Stadium where he finished a one-year career that included stints with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oklahoma Outlaws of the United States Football League. After two successful seasons as a high school coach, Williams was hired by former Tampa Bay assistant coach George Chaump in January to help Navy's running game.

"I really wasn't out there looking for a job," said Williams, who only applied to one other college. "(But) I couldn't think of a better opportunity to jump into college coaching than the Naval Academy."

It has been a meteoric fall and resurrection for Williams since winning the Super Bowl in January, 1988. Starting the next season over Jay Schroeder, Williams underwent an emergency appendectomy in week four to miss four games. During the off-season, Williams suffered a back injury while working out on a treadmill, and would start only two games in 1989.

Washington then released Williams the following March. He was suddenly out of football because the Redskins officials said they wanted a younger backup for starter Mark Rypien than Williams, who was making \$1 million annually. However, Washington signed Jeff Rutledge, who at 33 was just 14 months younger than Williams, for less money. After four years with Washington, Williams was bitter over the ending.

"I didn't agree with some of the things that happened," he said. "I don't like to be lied to. I



Doug Williams in Super Bowl year

Howard Sachs Photo

was 34 and Jeff was 33— what's the difference? If they drafted a rookie to go with Rypien and Stan (Humphries), that's youth, but don't bring in Jeff Rutledge who started 10 games in his career."

However, Williams tries to be diplomatic about the split, saying, "There's nothing wrong with expressing your feelings. I didn't call anybody names. I even thanked folks for giving me a chance."

So what was Williams going to do now that his career was over? Well, his boyhood dream was to coach high school football, and he always loved spending the off-season in his native Zachary, a town of 8,000 near New Orleans. It was only natural for Williams to return to his hometown to begin again.

First Williams spent 1990 as a college game analyst for the Black Entertainment Network, but second-guessing others publicly wasn't his style.

"I had fun, but I'd rather be on the sidelines than the booth," he said. "I don't like to be critical. I didn't want to say the coach called a bad play or the quarterback made a terrible decision on national TV."

So when a head coaching position opened in 1991 near Zachary, Williams quickly applied.

"A lot of guys who play in the pros don't want to coach high school," he said. "They think they're a cut above it."

With only 35 players from a school of 600, Williams led Pointe High to a 5-5 record while upsetting the No. 2 team in the state. But that was only the setup for the job and a season of Williams' dreams. He transferred to his old high school, now renamed Northeast High, in

1992. Playing on Doug Williams Field, he led the team to the school's first undefeated regular season ever before being eliminated in the state semifinals.

Still, Williams knew his days in Zachary were numbered. At age 38, his time was running out on the college level. That meant moving on soon.

"If I was 45, 50-years old, there's no way in the world I would have left," he said. "The hardest thing was telling the kids I was leaving. The young ones were looking forward to playing for coach Williams."

Williams sees Navy as a unique opportunity to influence not only players, but the country's future leaders.

"Fifteen, 20 years from now, some of these young men will be in the position of Secretary of State or Congressman," he said. "I met a lot of young guys who look at me as someone to look up to, but I admire them."

At Navy, Williams feels he's partly getting an opportunity that comes with being a Super Bowl champion quarterback. He has seen the financial success of others who have won America's ultimate prize, and expected to be the next athlete to earn millions pitching products. Oh, Williams received the traditional Disney post-game commercial by being the MVP, but that was about it.

And that has bothered him so much over the years that Williams said he has watched a replay of the Super Bowl victory only once.

Why didn't he get more offers? "Racism," he says.

"I think Jim Kelly is one of the best (quarterbacks ever)," he said. "Dan Fouts, John Elway, and Fran Tarkenton. . . I've got something they all don't that sets me apart. There are only a few Super Bowl rings out there. I've got as many as Joe Namath."

But successfully overcoming racism has been Williams' burden since becoming the first black quarterback ever drafted in the first round by Tampa Bay in 1979. Grambling University sent more than 150 players to the pros before Williams, but only two were quarterbacks with one playing in the Canadian Football League instead. While coach Jim McKay compared Williams to Norm Van Brocklin, the fans pressured Williams by mailing a rotten watermelon with a racist note after a playoff loss.

But the pressure escalated before the Super

Bowl with one reporter even asking how long Williams had been a black quarterback.

"When we went to the Super Bowl, people asked me about the pressure of being a black quarterback and was all black America watching me. I knew that, but I was not going to my room at night thinking about what people were asking me. I was thinking about how to beat Denver."

Indeed, his determination to overcome racism was the reason Williams quickly returned after hyperextending his knee in the first quarter to lead the Redskins to five straight scoring drives.

"If I hadn't finished the game, it would have given so many people that did not want me to win, and I'm talking about the media, an opportunity to cite some beautiful stories for themselves," he said.

Six years later, a few flecks of grey hair are the only visible difference in Williams, who says he's now much happier with his personal life. His wife of two years, LaTaunya, is expecting the couple's second child in June while Doug



Doug Williams at Navy

Sharon Natoff Photo

Williams, Jr. is nearing his second birthday. Williams said he has found the perfect mate for a football coach.

"You have to have an understanding wife who likes what you're doing," he said. "I'm just lucky to be married to someone who loves sports. Rain or shine, I knew she was in the stands."

How long Williams stays at Navy is uncertain. For now, he's back in the limelight at a Division I college program with no future plans.

"You have to take things a day at a time," he said. "I didn't expect to be here at Navy. I thought I would be in home room."

Rick Snider is the editor of the Redskins Review and is a freelance writer for many sports publications.

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World's Largest Super Bowl Party

By Ronnie Lott and Marcus Allen

Why did we want to create our own party around the Super Bowl? That's easy. Every year we saw the Super Bowl becoming more and more a corporate event, so we began searching for something for the fans and players.

The result is the **NFLPA's "World's Largest Super Bowl Party,"** a four-day event which caters to the fans—more than 20,000 this year—and the players—nearly 500, who celebrated together in Atlanta.

Our idea was create an event that was unlike the glitzy, but sterile, pre-packaged events usually associated with Super Bowl week. Fans are in town from all over the country and we wanted to make our party a gathering place, where fans can mingle with players, just sit and shoot the breeze and see that we're regular guys.

Most of the parties are exclusive, so the average fan can't even attend. The public isn't really a part of the Super Bowl and what makes our party different is that the public is involved. Our event is a chance for fans—especially kids—to meet the players.

Another aspect that's become important to our event is the charity side. A portion of the proceeds from this past year's event went to the new Youth Education Town in Atlanta and we plan to do the same next year in Miami. Additionally, we

were able to donate some money to the NFLPA's Player Assistance Trust fund, which helps former players in dire need.

But we didn't want to make the event exclusive, or expensive, just to raise money.

Tickets were inexpensive,

and once inside, fans could purchase souvenirs, Super Bowl merchandise, food and drinks. We didn't charge people for autographs, or to listen to the bands.

We wanted the party to represent us and everyone else involved. To begin with, we had the event officially licensed by the NFL Players Association. Then we became personally involved in every step of the planning. Starting in December (1993), we flew to Atlanta just about every Tuesday, our only day off, to tape radio and TV promos for the party.

When the doors opened on the first day, we were there to say "thank you" for supporting the **NFLPA's "World's Largest Super Bowl Party."**

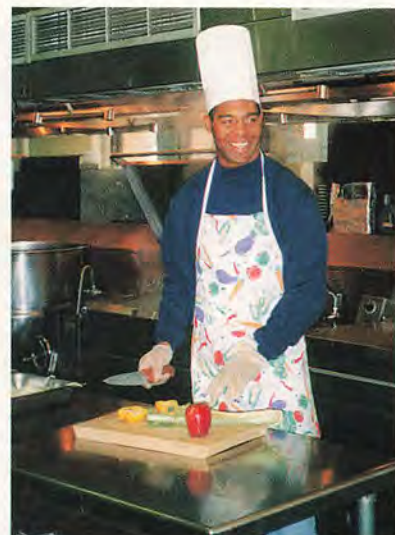
For the next four days, fans—20,000 of them—had their own Super Bowl experience. They could socialize with active and retired players, get autographs, take pictures with the players, or go up and have a personal conversation with their favorite star.

There were basketball challenges and football Pro Video game challenges with us, and Miller Lite Sumo Wrestling.

On game day, fans who couldn't pay thousands to get tickets could come by and watch the game with us on one of the three video screens or 40 large screen TVs—we even had real NFL players handling the play-by-play during the game.

We wanted people to leave saying, "I had a great time." And not necessarily because they rubbed elbows with athletes, but because they were dancing all night and we were partying together. Hey, I (Marcus) even got up on stage with the band and sang on the closing night. In fact, I've already started putting together an NFLPA Jam Band made up of NFL players for next year's event. We're also lining up concerts and starting the official NFLPA Fashion Show.

So come out and see us, our teammates, and friends at the official "Players Party," the **NFLPA's "World's Largest Super Bowl Party"** next year in Miami.



Marcus Allen

Creative Loafing Photo



Ronnie Lott

Eric Francis Photo



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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

Sunday, September 4

Atlanta at Detroit
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Houston at Indianapolis
Kansas City at New Orleans
Philadelphia at New York Giants
Seattle at Washington
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Minnesota at Green Bay (Milw.)
New England at Miami
Dallas at Pittsburgh
New York Jets at Buffalo
Arizona at L.A. Rams
San Diego at Denver (N)

Monday, September 5

L.A. Raiders at San Francisco (N)

Sunday, September 11

Buffalo at New England
Cincinnati at San Diego
Denver at New York Jets
Detroit at Minnesota
Houston at Dallas
Indianapolis at Tampa Bay
L.A. Rams at Atlanta
Miami at Green Bay
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
San Francisco at Kansas City
Seattle at L.A. Raiders
Washington at New Orleans
New York Giants at Arizona (N)

Monday, September 12

Chicago at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, September 18

Arizona at Cleveland
Buffalo at Houston
Green Bay at Philadelphia
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
L.A. Raiders at Denver
Minnesota at Chicago
New England at Cincinnati
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
New York Jets at Miami
San Diego at Seattle
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Washington at New York Giants
Kansas City at Atlanta (N)

Monday, September 19

Detroit at Dallas (N)

Sunday, September 25

(Open Dates: Arizona, Dallas, New York Giants, Philadelphia)
Atlanta at Washington
Cincinnati at Houston
Cleveland at Indianapolis
L.A. Rams at Kansas City
Miami at Minnesota
New England at Detroit
New Orleans at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at Seattle
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
Chicago at New York Jets (N)

Monday, September 26

Denver at Buffalo (N)

Sunday, October 2

(Open Dates: Denver, Kansas City, L.A. Raiders, San Diego)

Atlanta at L.A. Rams
Buffalo at Chicago
Dallas at Washington
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at New England
Minnesota at Arizona
New York Giants at New Orleans
New York Jets at Cleveland
Philadelphia at San Francisco
Seattle at Indianapolis
Miami at Cincinnati (N)

Monday, October 3

Houston at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, October 9

(Open Dates: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburgh)

Arizona at Dallas
Denver at Seattle
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
Kansas City at San Diego
L.A. Raiders at New England
L.A. Rams at Green Bay
Miami at Buffalo
New Orleans at Chicago
San Francisco at Detroit
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Washington at Philadelphia (N)

Monday, October 10

Minnesota at New York Giants (N)

Thursday, October 13

Cleveland at Houston (N)

Sunday, October 16

(Open Dates: Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota, Seattle, Tampa Bay)

Arizona at Washington
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Buffalo
L.A. Raiders at Miami
New England at New York Jets
New York Giants at L.A. Rams
Philadelphia at Dallas
San Diego at New Orleans
San Francisco at Atlanta

Monday, October 17

Kansas City at Denver (N)

Thursday, October 20

Green Bay at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, October 23

(Open Dates: Buffalo, Miami, New England, New York Jets)

Atlanta at L.A. Raiders
Chicago at Detroit
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Dallas at Arizona
Denver at San Diego
L.A. Rams at New Orleans
Pittsburgh at New York Giants
Seattle at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at San Francisco
Washington at Indianapolis

Monday, October 24

Houston at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, October 30

(Open Dates: Atlanta, L.A. Rams, New Orleans, San Francisco)

Cleveland at Denver
Dallas at Cincinnati
Detroit at New York Giants
Houston at L.A. Raiders
Kansas City at Buffalo
Miami at New England
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
New York Jets at Indianapolis
Philadelphia at Washington
Seattle at San Diego
Pittsburgh at Arizona (N)

Monday, October 31

Green Bay at Chicago (N)

Sunday, November 6

Arizona at Philadelphia
Buffalo at New York Jets
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Seattle
Denver at L.A. Rams
Detroit at Green Bay (Milw.)
Indianapolis at Miami
New England at Cleveland
New Orleans at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Houston
San Diego at Atlanta
San Francisco at Washington
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City (N)

Monday, November 7

New York Giants at Dallas (N)

Sunday, November 13

(Open Dates: Indianapolis, Washington)

Arizona at New York Giants
Atlanta at New Orleans
Chicago at Miami
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Dallas at San Francisco
Houston at Cincinnati
L.A. Raiders at L.A. Rams
Minnesota at New England
New York Jets at Green Bay
San Diego at Kansas City
Seattle at Denver
Tampa Bay at Detroit (N)

Monday, November 14

Buffalo at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, November 20

Atlanta at Denver
Cleveland at Kansas City
Detroit at Chicago
Green Bay at Buffalo
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
Miami at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at L.A. Raiders
New York Jets at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Arizona
San Diego at New England
Tampa Bay at Seattle
Washington at Dallas
L.A. Rams at San Francisco (N)

Monday, November 21

New York Giants at Houston (N)

Thursday, November 24

Buffalo at Detroit
Green Bay at Dallas

Sunday, November 27

Chicago at Arizona
Cincinnati at Denver
Houston at Cleveland
Kansas City at Seattle
L.A. Rams at San Diego
Miami at New York Jets
New York Giants at Washington
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Pittsburgh at L.A. Raiders
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
New England at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, November 28

San Francisco at New Orleans (N)

Thursday, December 1

Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, December 4

Arizona at Houston
Atlanta at San Francisco
Dallas at Philadelphia
Denver at Kansas City
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Seattle
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
New York Giants at Cleveland
New York Jets at New England
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Washington at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Miami (N)

Monday, December 5

L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Saturday, December 10

Cleveland at Dallas
Detroit at New York Jets

Sunday, December 11

Chicago at Green Bay
Cincinnati at New York Giants
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Indianapolis at New England
L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay
Minnesota at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at San Diego
Seattle at Houston
Washington at Arizona
New Orleans at Atlanta (N)

Monday, December 12

Kansas City at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 17

Minnesota at Detroit
Denver at San Francisco

Sunday, December 18

Atlanta at Green Bay (Milw.)
Cincinnati at Arizona
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Houston at Kansas City
L.A. Rams at Chicago
Miami at Indianapolis
New England at Buffalo
New York Giants at Philadelphia
San Diego at New York Jets
Tampa Bay at Washington
L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 19

Dallas at New Orleans (N)

Saturday, December 24

Arizona at Atlanta
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Dallas at New York Giants
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
New England at Chicago
New Orleans at Denver
New York Jets at Houston
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at San Diego
Seattle at Cleveland
Washington at L.A. Rams
Detroit at Miami (N)

Monday, December 26

San Francisco at Minnesota (N)

Saturday, December 31

Sunday, January 1
NFC and AFC Wild Card Games

Saturday, January 7

Sunday, January 8
Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 15

NFC and AFC Championship Games

Sunday, January 29

Super Bowl XXIX
(Miami, FL)

Sunday, February 5

NFC-AFC Pro Bowl
(Honolulu, HI)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

**Despite its losses,
Dallas remains the team
to beat in the NFC**

by DON PIERSON

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Dallas Cowboys
2. New York Giants*
3. Arizona Cardinals*
4. Philadelphia Eagles
5. Washington Redskins

WEST

1. San Francisco 49ers
2. New Orleans Saints
3. Atlanta Falcons
4. Los Angeles Rams

CENTRAL

1. Green Bay Packers
2. Minnesota Vikings*
3. Chicago Bears
4. Detroit Lions
5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

NFC Champion: Dallas Cowboys

* Wild Card Teams

● If the NFC abdicates its 10-year Super Bowl reign in 1994, it will be Jerry Jones's idea. Jones is the king of pro football and his two-time world champion Dallas Cowboys play in the NFC. Jones expects another title despite his curious decision to divorce himself from coach Jimmy Johnson and hire another old Arkansas pal, Barry Switzer. Whatever Jones wants, he usually gets, no matter what the subject. The Cowboys suffered some free-agent losses and a draft-day trade setback, but they remain the team to beat in the NFL.

After back-to-back titles, Jones decided there were too many J's in Dallas and broke up the most successful management team of the '90s. Granted, he had help from Johnson, who found it increasingly stifling to work for an owner with an ego at least as big as his own. The football cliché that winning provides enough credit for everybody to share was proved wrong in Dallas, where Jones likes to brag he paid \$130 million for his franchise. When it became known as Johnson's team, Jones was eager to set the record straight.

Change never intimidates Jones; it invigorates him. So when he began second-guessing himself about Johnson's future during a barroom conversation at the NFL owners' meetings, Jones soon made sure he would not enter 1994 with any regrets. For Johnson, the rift had become so wide that it was easy for him to see an escape route paved with gold. To Jones, Johnson would become more valuable to the Cowboys if he didn't coach them. In Switzer, Jones resurrected a brilliant college coach after his five-year absence from football. Jones also gained a more willing partner for the nightlife both enjoy. It was as if Jones sensed a certain amount of boredom infiltrating America's Team. Therefore, he would stay one step ahead of inertia. He and Johnson would part ways before anyone else gave the timing a thought. When it was done, Jones had somehow convinced Johnson to make it sound like a good idea.

"Personally, it was time I think I needed to pull back some," Johnson said. "Anybody who knows me knows I have to be 100 per-



James D. Smith

Barry Switzer & Jerry Jones

cent totally focused or else I'm not going to be as good. I felt like I was beginning to lose that focus, and because of that, I'm no longer coach of the Cowboys."

Johnson had always referred to Jones as "the smartest businessman" he had ever known. Jones considered it a compliment that nevertheless implied his football knowledge was limited. So buying Johnson out would guarantee one thing: The Cowboys are again Jones's team, solely and completely. By changing coaches in the middle of a stream of good fortune, Jones guaranteed he will be the center of attention throughout 1994. In 1993, Jones was criticized for playing contract hardball with Emmitt Smith. After the signing and Smith's sensational MVP year, Jones was disappointed that the owner didn't get enough credit for holding the line against this year's new salary cap.

"Everyone will see why I bargained the way I did with Emmitt," Jones said. "If I had not done that, it would give us \$1 million a year less under the cap, which would give us one, maybe two key players. People will see where you get credit is when you try to manage and be frugal as opposed to when you just throw it out. I can tell free agents, 'I tried as hard as I could to have the dollars available for you.'"

Johnson and Jones made 51 trades from the time they arrived in Dallas in 1989 to the time they split up. By most accounts, Johnson was pulling the trigger. Jones wanted to remind everybody it was Jerry's gun. That Jones has emerged as the most powerful owner in pro football is apparently only part of the projection the oil and gas man set for himself when he bought the Cowboys. "No way I could be involved in the NFL if I hadn't been a frustrated coach," Jones admitted. "If I hadn't been so greedy when a young man, I probably would have been in coaching."

In 1993, it was Jones who helped nix NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue's plan to extend television contracts at old prices. Then it was Jones who spearheaded a bold new alliance with Fox by personally wooing Rupert Murdoch. CBS must have been getting boring. But Jones didn't receive the proper attention for his television deeds. So as a member of the powerful competition committee, Jones voted for rules changes to encourage more touchdowns, more excitement, more money, less boredom. Realignment? Whatever Jones says. One thing for certain: His Cowboys are going nowhere. East is East and West is West only when Jones says so. The Cowboys are East forever. When he paid \$130 million, he

bought rivalries with the Washington Redskins, New York Giants, and Philadelphia Eagles. No way he moves.

So 1994 is a year dedicated to Jerry Jones, the one man in football obviously not preoccupied with the boredom of the salary cap. Any man who jettisons his coach because he didn't like the way he reacted to a toast is a man worth watching. When Johnson and friends, including some Jones had fired, provided a lukewarm response to a Jones' toast at the NFL owners meetings, Jones stalked away. "I was not satisfied with the toast, so I went to toast someplace else," Jones admitted. Johnson and Jones made Buddy Ryan's punch of Kevin Gilbride on the Houston Oilers' sideline look like a pat on the back.

"We're going to win and we're going to have fun," Switzer promised.

BUDDY IS BACK

For sure, the Cowboys are going to be noticed. They threaten to overshadow everything else happening in the NFC in 1994, including the return of Ryan. Proclaiming "Jimmy Johnson has never beat me," Ryan was

hired by the Arizona Cardinals after one year in Houston and two years on his horse farm following his 1990 firing in Philadelphia. Too bad Johnson is out of the picture in the NFC East. Too bad Ryan's old boss, Norman Braman, just sold the Eagles to Hollywood producer Jeffrey Lurie. But if Ryan runs out of feuds, he is certain to create more. "I think we can be a contender," Ryan said.

Suddenly, Ryan's Philadelphia successor, Rich Kotite, is the dean of NFC East coaches. There are only five new NFL head coaches, and four are in the NFC. Three are in the NFC East, where Super Bowls are expected or else. Ryan joins Switzer in Dallas and Norv Turner in Washington, plus June Jones in NFC West Atlanta and Pete Carroll of the New York Jets as newcomers to the club Jerry Glanville aptly dubbed as the "NFL—Not For Long."

Turner becomes the second Jimmy Johnson coordinator in two years to take over a team, following Dave Wannstedt with the Chicago Bears. Switzer need not worry. Johnson already had hired Ernie Zampese from the Los Angeles Rams to replace offensive coordinator Turner. Who is Zampese? Turner's mentor. The offense in Dallas should suffer no more than the defense did after Wannstedt coached it to the No. 1 spot in 1992 and Butch Davis coached it to yield fewer points (but more yards) in 1993. Switzer is content to allow the coordinators room. He did the same thing at Oklahoma, where former linebacker Brian Bosworth swears he never saw the head coach stay for an entire practice.

CHANGING PLACES

Jones isn't the only NFL decision-maker to embrace change. Eight of the 14 NFC teams have new quarterbacks and four of them came from the AFC. The Minnesota Vikings traded for Houston's Warren Moon. The Detroit Lions signed young free agent Scott Mitchell from Miami and old free agent David Krieg from Kansas City. Atlanta traded for Indianapolis's Jeff George. Chicago signed Detroit's Erik Kramer, and in the NFC West the merry-go-round put the Rams' Jim Everett in New Orleans and the Falcons' Chris Miller

with the Rams. After the top two rookie quarterbacks last year went to the AFC (New England's Drew Bledsoe and Seattle's Rick Mirer), the NFC landed the top two this year, with Tennessee's Heath Shuler going to the Redskins and Fresno State's Trent Dilfer going to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Saints signed the Falcons' speed receiver, Michael Haynes. The Falcons landed the Vikings' pass rusher Chris Doleman. The Vikings took the Falcons' pass blocker Chris Hinton. The Green Bay Packers took the Bucs' leading rusher, Reggie Cobb. The Bears signed the New York Giants' ace backup, Lewis Tillman. Ryan got Eagles defenders Clyde Simmons and Seth Joyner to jump to Arizona. The San Francisco 49ers, tired of chasing the Cowboys, got Dallas middle linebacker Ken Norton to join them. The Redskins took linebacker Ken Harvey from the Cardinals and receiver Henry Ellard from the Rams.

EMMITT'S LEAGUE

Jones may own the Cowboys, but Emmitt Smith owned the NFL last year. He didn't get his due, not even after piling the Super Bowl MVP trophy atop the league's MVP honor. Smith's sum is more spectacular than his parts. Rarely flashy, Smith's relentless nature enabled him to lead the league in rushing for the third time in a row despite missing the first two games in his contract dispute. The Cowboys were 0-2 until he returned.

For most of the season, Smith performed in his usual fashion, which means 100 yards is routine and unnoticed except by coaches. Then, dragging a separated shoulder that required offseason surgery, Smith carried the Cowboys on his shoulders in a must-win game against the Giants to sew up a playoff bye. Smith played so he wouldn't have to play the following week.

"Who could have seen the Giants' game and not remembered it for the rest of their lives?" asked commissioner Tagliabue.

"It was a year that never, ever will be forgotten by myself," Smith admitted.

Jones and the Cowboys have set the stage for another memorable season.



Emmitt Smith

1994 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE

QB Troy Aikman, Dallas
RB Emmitt Smith, Dallas
RB Jerome Bettis, Los Angeles
WR Jerry Rice, San Francisco
WR Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay
TE Jackie Harris, Green Bay
OT Erik Williams, Dallas
OT Willie Roaf, New Orleans
OG Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
OG William Roberts, New York
C Jesse Sapolu, San Francisco
PK Chris Jacke, Green Bay
KR Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans

DEFENSE

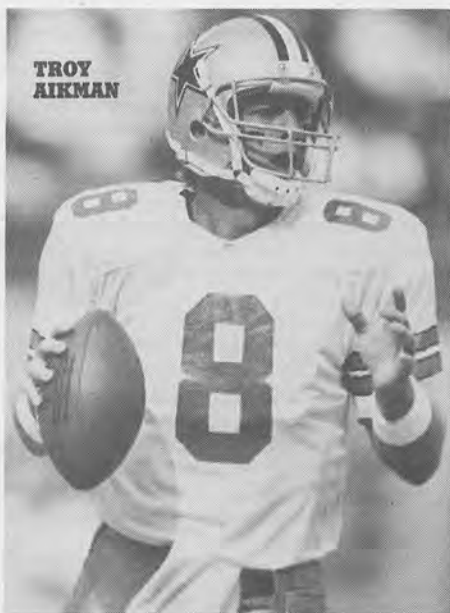
DE Reggie White, Green Bay
DE Trace Armstrong, Chicago
DT Eric Swann, Arizona
DT John Randle, Minnesota
LB Renaldo Turnbull, New Orleans
LB Seth Joyner, Arizona
LB Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay
CB Eric Allen, Philadelphia
CB Deion Sanders, Atlanta
SS LeRoy Butler, Green Bay
FS Greg Jackson, New York
P Chris Gardocki, Chicago

DALLAS COWBOYS

At some point during the 1994 season, the names of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, Jay Novacek, Alvin Harper, Daryl Johnston, Erik Williams, Kevin Smith, Charles Haley, Leon Lett, and Russell Maryland are expected to become more familiar than Jerry Jones, Jimmy Johnson, and Barry Switzer. Certainly they are more important when assessing the Cowboys' chances of becoming the first three-peat Super Bowl winner and the first three-time NFL champion since the 1965-66-67 Packers, who accomplished the first the year before the Super Bowl was invented. The Cowboys have the players. Johnson gathered them, Jones pays them, and Switzer now coaches them, none of which will matter much between the white lines. The Cowboys may not be as loaded as they were before free agency took a toll, but how many bullets are needed to make a point?

"Things will remain the same," promised Switzer, returning to coaching after five years away from football. "Get ready to watch the Dallas Cowboys be the best in the NFL."

In their last six playoff victories, they have outscored teams 211-98 and are plus-16 in



TROY AIKMAN

the turnover ratio. They have room to spare. When offensive coordinator Norv Turner left to take over the Washington Redskins, Johnson replaced him with Ernie Zampese of the Los Angeles Rams, who is only Turner's guru. Still, the free-agent losses must be addressed. The Cowboys were gutted up the gut, where the foundation for great teams starts. Middle linebacker Ken Norton Jr. went to the 49ers. Guards John Geseke (Redskins) and Kevin Gogan (Raiders) and defensive tackles Tony Casillas (Chiefs) and Jimmie Jones (Rams) left. Safety Thomas Everett was traded to the Bucs. Backup quarterback Bernie Kosar (Dolphins) was released. The Cowboys still have Pro Bowl talent at those positions, but they don't have the depth.

If the Cowboys are indeed only a three-man team, then Aikman, Smith, and Irvin are a good trio to boast. Aikman is as good as they come, at the height of his prime and maybe not even as good as he can get. His passer rating of 99.0 last year was a career high,

NFC east



CHARLES HALEY

following an upward spiral of 86.7 and 89.5. Nine quarterbacks threw more touchdown passes than Aikman's 15 last season, but no regular starter threw fewer interceptions than Aikman's six. As a leader, Aikman was the first to downplay the transition between Johnson and Switzer. It was Aikman who left Switzer's Oklahoma program to transfer to UCLA, but he said he left on good terms and welcomed the chance to play for him again.

"I think there is going to be a period of transition, a little bit of uncertainty compared to where it would have been had Jimmy stayed," Aikman said. "All things considered, I think the hiring of Barry Switzer makes the transition as smooth as could possibly be expected."

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Murray, 122 points on 38 extra points and 28 field goals. . . 3rd
RUSHING—Smith, 1,486 yards on 283 yards, 5.3 avg., 9 TDs. . . 1st
PASSING—Aikman, 271 of 392 attempts for 3,100 yards and 15 TDs. . . 2nd
RECEIVING—Irvin, 88 receptions for 1,330 yards, 15.1 avg., 7 TDs. . . 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Smith, 6 for 56 yards, 9.3 avg., 1 TD. . . 2nd
PUNTING—Jett, 56 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 59 yards. . . 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Williams, 36 for 381 yards, 10.6 avg., 2 TDs. . . 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Williams, 31 for 689 yards, 22.2 average. . . 6th
SACKS—Tolbert, 7.5 sacks. . . 10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	31	MINNESOTA (N)
August	7	L.A. RAIDERS (N)
	15	Houston at Mexico City, MX (N)
	21	DENVER (N)
	25	At New Orleans (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCHEDULE	1993 SCORES
September	4	At Pittsburgh	—
	11	HOUSTON	—
	19	DETROIT (N)	—
	25	OPEN DATE	—
October	2	At Washington	16-35
	9	ARIZONA	20-15
	16	PHILADELPHIA	23-17
	23	At Arizona	17-10
	30	At Cincinnati	—
November	7	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	31-9
	13	At San Francisco	26-17
	20	WASHINGTON	38-3
	24	GREEN BAY	36-14
December	4	At Philadelphia	23-10
	10	CLEVELAND	—
	19	At New Orleans (N)	—
	24	At N.Y. Giants	16-13

The more emotional Irvin decried the change and said he would miss Johnson. "I think he's doing the right thing for him. But I'd be foolish too if I said he was doing what's best for the Dallas Cowboys," he said. But Irvin is in the final year of a contract and is expected to play hard. After talking to Irvin the day after Switzer arrived, Smith said Irvin told him, "I'm going to go out and bust my butt all year long to get ready to play football this fall." Said Smith, "If Michael is going to do that, I believe every player on this team is going to have to take that same attitude."

Smith remains the key. He not only propels the offense, he takes pressure off the defense. It was more than coincidence that the Cowboys were 0-2 before he signed, then lost to the Falcons after he bruised a quadriceps and left after gaining one yard. He reached 100 yards in 10 of his 13 starts and carried the Cowboys to their overtime victory that wrested home field from the Giants.

"He's the best north-south runner I've ever seen," Johnson said, understated but accurate praise for a man who does nothing spectacular except get the job done.

The Cowboys kept fullback "Moose" Johnston from signing elsewhere, providing Smith with an unsung but vital element to the rushing game. Johnston blocks with the best of them and can run and catch well enough to grab the votes to earn a Pro Bowl berth. Derrick Lassic and Lincoln Coleman don't get much action behind the starters, but both picked up valuable experience as rookies.

The popular and talkative Irvin is the flashy element to the offense. He begs for the ball and comes through when it is delivered, making tough catches and setting an example in practice by outworking anyone within running distance. Sidekick Harper owes his big-play capacity to Irvin, who opens things up for Harper's impressive 21.6-yard average. Jones tried to trade Harper during the draft but failed to get what he wanted, leaving Harper's teammates happy to keep him. Tight end Novacek is as integral a part of the Cowboys' passing game as anyone in the league at his position. The addition of Zampese could further exploit Novacek's talents because Zampese designed the San Diego offenses

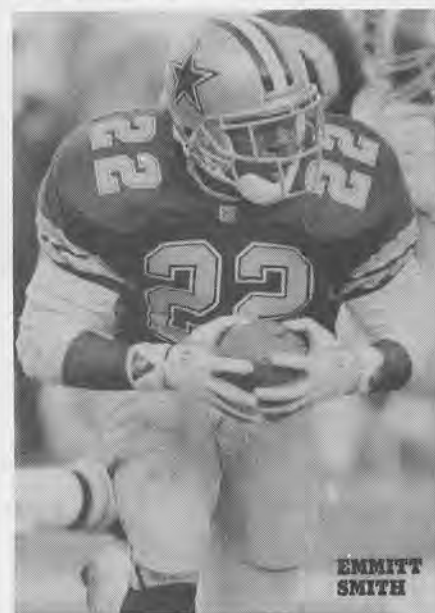
that turned Kellen Winslow into a superstar. Third wide receiver Kevin Williams had 20 catches as a rookie and has the speed to become a game-breaker, as he demonstrated as an excellent punt and kickoff returner. Fellow second-year man Tyrone Williams is big and raw. The Cowboys must replace blocking tight end Alfredo Roberts, who was released.

Aikman's blockers remain an effective group, but the loss of Gogan and Gesek hurts. Tackles Mark Tuinei on the left and Erik Williams on the right provide outstanding bookends, but Gogan, the starting right guard opposite Pro Bowler Nate Newton, backed up both, so the Cowboys signed free agent Derek Kennard from the New Orleans Saints and drafted huge Larry Allen from tiny Sonoma State. Allen will have to learn guard and tackle positions as a rookie without a big-time background, a lot to ask. Center Mark Stepnoski is coming off major knee surgery that dropped him under 250 pounds during rehab. Frank Cornish is the backup.

When Butch Davis replaced Dave Wannstedt as defensive coordinator last year, he turned the No. 1-ranked team in yardage allowed into an even stingier group in points allowed. Speed remains the unit's greatest asset and replacing Norton its greatest challenge. With pass rusher Haley coming off surgery to correct a ruptured disk in his back, Jones wanted to trade Harper to get USC's Willie McGinest. He settled for Arizona State's Shante Carver instead, an undersized speed rusher who should provide relief if Haley is unavailable. The defense will count more heavily on tackles Lett and Maryland and veteran ends Jim Jeffcoat and Tony Tolbert now that the departure of Casillas and Jones will prevent their normal rotation. Darrin Smith was outstanding as a rookie weakside linebacker and Dixon Edwards and Godfrey Myles patrol the other side. Inside, the Cowboys still have former starter Robert Jones, neither as fast nor as good as Norton. Kevin Smith has devel-



MICHAEL IRVIN



EMMITT SMITH

oped into one of the league's top corners and Larry Brown is steady on the other side. Darren Woodson is coming into his own at strong safety, and the task of replacing the traded Everett falls to James Washington, who was merely a Super Bowl hero. Kenny Gant, Brock Marion, Elvis Patterson, and the ageless Bill Bates provide quality depth.

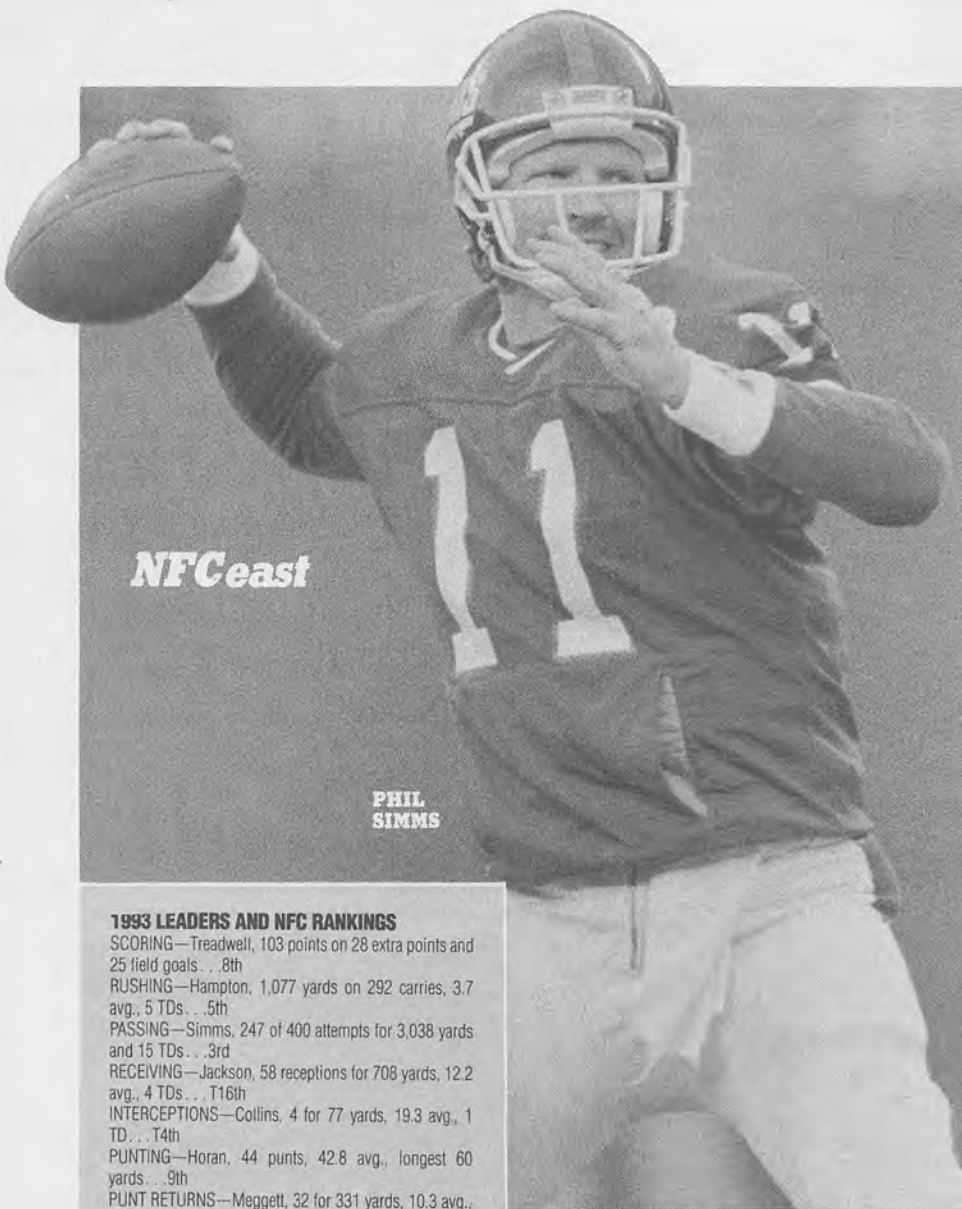
The Cowboys lost place-kicker Eddie Murray to the Eagles, but figure there are more where he came from—the street. John Jett was better than average as a rookie punter for an offense that seldom finds itself in trouble.

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
34	Agee, Tommie	FB	6-0	235	30	Auburn
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	228	28	UCLA
40	Bates, Bill	DE	6-1	205	33	Tennessee
97	Batiste, Michael	DT	6-3	301	24	Tulane
45	Beal, Coleman	TE	6-2	232	24	Miami
18	Boniol, Chris	K	5-11	159	23	Louisiana Tech
11	Bretz, Brad	QB	6-5	218	24	Cal St.-Hayward
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	182	25	TCU
27	Burch, Albie	CB	6-0	196	23	Michigan
44	Coleman, Lincoln	RB	6-1	249	25	Baylor
56	Collins, Roosevelt	LB	6-4	244	26	TCU
68	Cornish, Frank	OL	6-4	287	27	UCLA
6	Cunningham, Richie	K	5-10	165	24	SW Louisiana
81	Daniel, Tim	WR	5-11	192	25	Florida A&M
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	222	26	Michigan State
6	Fayak, Craig	K	6-1	188	22	Penn State
46	Fishback, Joe	S	6-0	212	27	Carson-Newman
39	Gainer, Derrick	RB	5-11	228	28	Florida A&M
89	Galbraith, Scott	TE	6-2	255	27	USC
29	Gant, Kenneth	S	5-11	189	27	Albany St.
17	Garrett, Jason	QB	6-2	195	28	Princeton
32	Garrett, Judd	RB	6-2	214	27	Princeton
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	250	30	James Madison
80	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-3	208	27	Tennessee
70	Hellestrae, Dale	OL	6-5	275	32	SMU
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	286	29	Air Force
2	Hill, Shelby	WR	6-0	207	23	Syracuse
47	Holmes, Clayton	CB	5-10	181	25	Carson-Newman
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	206	28	Miami
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	280	33	Arizona State
19	Jett, John	P	6-0	184	26	East Carolina
48	Johnston, Daryl	FB	6-2	238	28	Syracuse
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	237	25	East Carolina
38	Jones, Tommy	CB	5-8	167	23	Fresno State
76	Joyce, Matt	OL	6-7	283	22	Richmond
60	Kennard, Derek	G	6-3	300	32	Nevada-Reno
25	Lassic, Derrick	RB	5-10	188	24	Alabama
78	Lett, Leon	DE	6-6	285	26	Emporia State
31	Marion, Brock	S	5-11	189	24	Nevada
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	279	25	Miami
21	Mason, Mark	RB	5-7	189	22	Maryland
64	Mays, Marvin	DE	6-3	262	25	SE Oklahoma
57	McClanahan, Anthony	LB	6-1	238	23	Washington State
99	McCormack, Hurvin	DT	6-5	271	22	Indiana
54	Mills, Toby	C	6-0	270	23	Arizona State
49	Mundy, Aaron	TE	6-5	252	23	Virginia
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	242	26	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	325	33	Florida A&M
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	232	32	Wyoming
82	Parrish, James	T	6-6	310	26	Temple
82	Peete, Rodney	QB	6-0	207	28	USC
93	Powe, Keith	DE	6-4	265	25	UTEP
89	Price, Jim	TE	6-4	247	28	Stanford
35	Richardson, Tony	FB	6-1	224	23	Auburn
87	Schorp, Greg	TE	6-3	242	23	Texas A&M
59	Smith, Darrin	LB	6-1	227	24	Miami
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	25	Florida
82	Smith, Jimmy	WR	6-1	205	25	Jackson State
26	Smith, Kevin	CB	5-11	180	24	Texas A&M
53	Stepnoski, Mark	C	6-2	264	27	Pittsburgh
65	Stone, Ron	T	6-5	309	23	Boston College
41	Thomas, Dave	CB	6-2	208	26	Tennessee
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	263	27	UTEP
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	305	34	Hawaii
91	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB	6-3	243	27	Michigan State
76	Wagner, Keith	T	6-4	302	24	Abilene Christian
37	Washington, James	S	6-1	209	29	UCLA
14	Wilkins, Jeff	K	6-1	180	22	Youngstown St.
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	324	26	Central State
85	Williams, Kevin	WR	6-9	192	23	Miami
74	Williams, Nate	DT	6-2	290	26	Mississippi St.
86	Williams, Tyrone	WR	6-5	220	24	Western Ontario
42	Wilson, Robert	FB	6-0	258	25	Texas A&M
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	215	25	Arizona State
52	Younger, Jermaine	LB	6-0	262	23	Utah State

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	Carver, Shante	DE	6-5	240	Arizona State
2	Allen, Larry	OL	6-3	325	Sonoma State
3	Hegamin, George	OT	6-7	355	N.C. State
4	Jackson, Willie	WR	6-1	195	Florida
4	Dotson, DeWayne	LB	6-1	250	Mississippi
6	Studstill, Darren	QB	6-2	185	West Virginia
7	McIntosh, Todd	DT	6-3	270	Florida State



1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Treadwell, 103 points on 28 extra points and 25 field goals... 8th
 RUSHING—Hampton, 1,077 yards on 292 carries, 3.7 avg., 5 TDs... 5th
 PASSING—Simms, 247 of 400 attempts for 3,038 yards and 15 TDs... 3rd
 RECEIVING—Jackson, 58 receptions for 708 yards, 12.2 avg., 4 TDs... T16th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Collins, 4 for 77 yards, 19.3 avg., 1 TD... T4th
 PUNTING—Horan, 44 punts, 42.8 avg., longest 60 yards... 9th
 PUNT RETURNS—Meggett, 32 for 331 yards, 10.3 avg., 1 TD... 4th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Meggett, 24 for 403 yards, 16.8 average... 16th
 SACKS—Hamilton, 11.5 sacks... T3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	30	MIAMI (N)
August	6	CLEVELAND (N)
	13	San Diego at Berlin, Germany
	20	At N.Y. Jets (N)
	27	At Chicago (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

1993 SCORES

September	4	PHILADELPHIA	21-10
	11	At Arizona (N)	6-17
	18	WASHINGTON	20-6
	25	OPEN DATE	—
October	2	At New Orleans	24-14
	10	MINNESOTA (N)	—
	16	At L.A. Rams	20-10
	23	PITTSBURGH	—
	30	DETROIT	—
November	7	At Dallas (N)	9-31
	13	ARIZONA	19-17
	21	At Houston (N)	—
	27	At Washington	41-7
December	4	At Cleveland	—
	11	CINCINNATI	—
	18	At Philadelphia	7-3
	24	DALLAS	13-16

NEW YORK GIANTS

Dan Reeves became NFC Coach of the Year after transplanting many of his Denver Broncos to New York and proving he can beat NFC teams after all. An encore beckons, but something is missing. He's Lawrence Taylor, finally retired after 13 seasons as the man who did no less than change the way pro football is played. It was time, because Taylor no longer terrorized entire offenses the way he once did. Still, his absence will leave New York and the NFL with a void impossible to fill. Fans have searched for the next L.T. for a decade now and will continue to look in vain.

The Giants took the Cowboys to the wire before losing in overtime for the NFC East title, meaning they would have to take their playoff show on the road. It came to an inauspicious halt in San Francisco, where the 49ers exposed them, 44-3. Despite the sour taste that pounding left in their mouths, the Giants are feeling much better about themselves than they did a year ago, when they were rebounding from the short Ray Handley era. This is a team with possibilities, despite significant losses in free agency. Two starters in the de-

fensive backfield—cornerback Mark Collins (Chiefs) and strong safety Myron Guyton (Patriots)—have left. Two offensive linemen who were starting by the end of the season—tackle Eric Moore (Bengals) and guard Bob Kratch (Patriots)—also are gone. Their departures confirmed the fears of general manager George Young, who predicted that successful teams soon would be paying the piper, and the piper's name was Mr. Cap. Stockpiling quality depth is no longer an option. Running back Lewis Tillman, tired of his backup role to ironman Rodney Hampton, left for Chicago to prove he could start somewhere. The Bears were happy to accommodate.

So once again, Reeves's hopes rest on the shoulders of Phil Simms, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder in the offseason. He will be 39 in November, but is coming off one of his best years and his second Pro Bowl trip in 15. He did not throw an interception during the final six regular-season games. If this is Simms's final season, as his contract and intentions indicate, 1992 supplemental No. 1 draft choice Dave Brown is



going to have to step up and show he can beat out third-year find Kent Graham as the quarterback of the future.

Receiving is a question mark for the Giants, who lost Mike Sherrard in the middle of an outstanding year to a serious hip injury that leaves his future shaky. Known for coming back from injury, Sherrard nevertheless causes enough alarm that the Giants spent

their No. 1 draft choice on Indiana's Thomas Lewis and then traded for another of Reeves's ex-Broncos, Arthur Marshall. Former Bronco Mark Jackson caught more passes than he ever did in Denver, but he was cut in May. Chris Calloway had back surgery in February and Ed McCaffrey is a capable third-down man. Keith Crawford and Eric Weir will get camp looks at a position in need of a surprise. At tight end, Howard Cross has developed into one of the league's best, leading the club with five TD receptions and continuing as an excellent blocker. H-back Aaron Pierce and backup Derek Brown keep the Giants strong in this area, although Brown has yet to live up to No. 1 draft-choice potential.

Hampton missed four games with knee and ankle injuries and still became the first runner to gain 1,000 yards three years in a row for the Giants. He's a workhorse whose longest run of

second-year players Scott Davis and Greg Bishop and draftee Jason Winrow expected to provide depth.

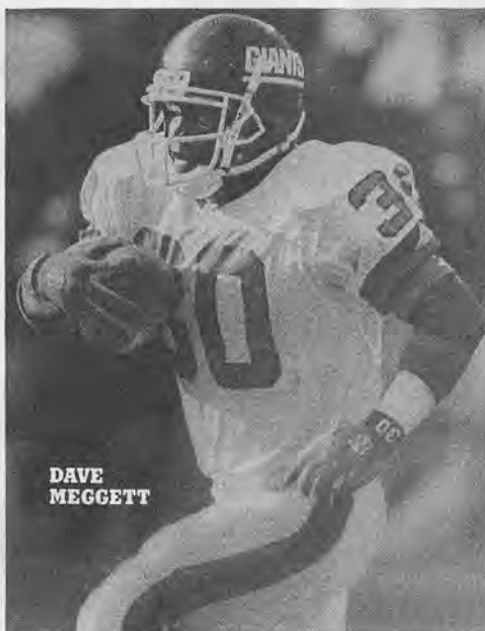
On defense, the Giants enter their first season since 1981 without Taylor's presence lurking. He missed the first four games in 1988 for substance abuse and made up for it with 15½ sacks, the second-best total of his career. Who will replace him? If fourth-year man Kanavis McGhee can't shake leg injuries and step up, look for second-year prospects Jessie Armstead and Marcus Buckley to contend. Both were impressive on special teams, nickel situations, and sub roles as rookies. Corey Miller was outstanding in his first full-time job at left linebacker, replacing Carl Banks and finishing with 6½ sacks. Inside, ex-Bronco Michael Brooks is the leader of the defense and deserved more postseason recognition than he got. Former Bills backup Carlton Bailey led the club in tackles at his inside spot. Andre Powell looks promising.

Up front, Keith Hamilton is developing into a feared rusher. He was sixth in the NFC with 11½ sacks in his first full season as starting left end. The Giants are hoping second-year man Michael Strahan can shake the injuries that hampered his rookie season, limiting him to nine games after a promising camp. Mike Fox started all 16 games at right end and had 4½ sacks, so Strahan has a challenge. Stacey Dillard was so impressive on the nose that veteran Erik Howard had to share time when he was healthy. The Giants drafted Chris Mau-malanga and Chad Bratzke to compete with Steve Brannon for reserve spots.

The secondary will undergo an overhaul with the departure of steady starters Guyton and Collins, both coming off outstanding sea-

sons. Drafting cornerback Thomas Randolph of Kansas State and safety Jason Sehorn of USC in the second round revealed concern. Corners Phillippi Sparks and Perry Williams are returning from injury to join Corey Raymond, who replaced Sparks on the right side halfway through the schedule. Undrafted rookie Willie Beamon showed promise as a rookie and will figure in the revamping job. Former Eagle Jesse Campbell and former Bear David Tate also are available. Free safety Greg Jackson tied Collins for the team lead in interceptions with four.

Meggett continues to provide outstanding punt- and kick-return capability, joining former Denver kickers Brad Daluiso and Mike Horan, whose net punting average of 39.9 yards led the NFL, on the special teams.



DAVE
MEGGETT

the season, 51 yards, broke the Vikings' backs in the playoffs. Fullback Jarrod Bunch was hampered by a bronchial infection that enabled Kenyon Rasheed to start three games. Dave Meggett remains one of the league's best third-down threats both running and receiving and last year added two touch-down passes to his repertoire, enough to keep defensive coordinators awake screaming. To replace the valuable Tillman, the Giants drafted Gary Downs of North Carolina State in the third round.

The health of left tackle Jumbo Elliott is another concern. He is coming off back surgery after struggling until he could no longer play the final five games. Moore replaced him because Clarence Jones wasn't ready, so Moore's exit puts pressure on Elliott to be ready. The Giants re-signed right tackle Doug Riesenberger and lured right guard Lance Smith from the Cardinals to replace Kratch. They also retained Brian Williams, who may supplant Bart Oates after sharing time at center. William Roberts is solid at left guard, with



JUMBO
ELLIOTT

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
98	Armstead, Jessie	LB	6-1	238	24	Miami
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-3	235	30	North Carolina
21	Beamon, Willie	CB	5-11	170	24	Northern Iowa
78	Bishop, Greg	T	6-5	298	23	Pacific
70	Brannon, Steve	DE	6-3	265	26	Hampton
94	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	30	LSU
17	Brown, Dave	QB	6-5	215	24	Duke
86	Brown, Derek	TE	6-6	252	24	Notre Dame
55	Buckley, Marcus	LB	6-3	235	23	Texas A&M
33	Bunch, Jarrod	FB	6-2	248	26	Michigan
60	Calloway, Chris	WR	5-10	185	26	Michigan
37	Campbell, Jesse	S	6-1	215	25	N.C. State
85	Crawford, Keith	WR	6-2	180	24	Howard Payne
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	245	27	Alabama
3	Daluiso, Brad	PK	6-2	207	27	UCLA
62	Davis, Scott	G	6-3	289	24	Iowa
58	Dent, Burnell	LB	6-2	235	31	Tulane
71	Dillard, Stacey	NT	6-5	288	26	Oklahoma
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	305	29	Michigan
95	Flythe, Mark	DE	6-7	290	26	Penn State
93	Fox, Mike	DE	6-6	275	27	West Virginia
10	Graham, Kent	DB	6-5	220	26	Ohio State
75	Hamilton, Keith	DE	6-6	280	23	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5-11	215	35	Georgia
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	35	Long Beach St.
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	268	30	Washington St.
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	200	28	LSU
24	Jenkins, Izel	CB	5-10	190	30	N.C. State
	Johnson, Chuck	T	6-3	280	25	Texas
68	Jones, Clarence	T	6-6	280	26	Maryland
46	Kozlowski, Brian	TE	6-3	245	24	Connecticut
	Marshall, Arthur	WR	5-11	174	25	Georgia
81	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	26	Stanford
96	McGhee, Kanavis	DE	6-4	257	26	Colorado
30	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	180	28	Towson State
57	Miller, Corey	LB	6-2	255	26	South Carolina
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	36	BYU
84	Pierce, Aaron	HB	6-5	246	25	Washington
51	Powell, Andre	LB	6-1	225	25	Penn State
44	Rasheed, Kenyon	FB	5-10	245	24	Oklahoma
39	Raymond, Corey	CB	5-11	180	25	LSU
72	Riesenberger, Doug	T	6-5	275	29	California
66	Roberts, William	G	6-5	280	32	Ohio State
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	31	UCLA
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	39	Morehead State
	Smith, Joey	DB	5-10	190	25	Louisville
61	Smith, Lance	G	6-3	285	31	LSU
22	Sparks, Phillippi	CB	5-11	186	25	Arizona State
92	Strahan, Michael	DE	6-4	253	23	Texas Southern
49	Tate, David	S	6-1	200	30	Colorado
97	Thigpen, Tommy	LB	6-2	242	23	North Carolina
82	Weir, Eric	WR	6-2	175	24	Vanderbilt
90	Wilmer, Corey	LB	6-3	276	26	Montana State
59	Williams, Brian	C	6-5	300	28	Minnesota
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	33	N.C. State

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Lewis, Thomas	WR	6-2	190	Indiana
2	Randolph, Thomas	CB	5-9	176	Kansas State
2	Sehorn, Jason	DB	6-1	218	USC
3	Downs, Gary	RB	6-2	212	N.C. State
4	Maumalanga, Chris	DT	6-3	295	Kansas
5	Bratzke, Chad	DE	6-4	269	Eastern Kentucky
6	Winrow, Jason	OL	6-4	321	Ohio State

NFC East ARIZONA CARDINALS

Buddy Ryan is back, wildly successful in Arizona before his Cardinals ever play a game. Before the draft, team owner, Billy Bidwill had sold more than 40,000 season tickets, up from 26,000 last year.

"You've got a winner in town," Ryan boasted as soon as Bidwill rescued him from potential oblivion after Ryan poked fellow coordinator Kevin Gilbride on the Houston sidelines. Always as subtle as a fist, Ryan takes over a team with promise in a division that is suddenly more vulnerable than it ever was for predecessor Joe Bugel.

"This is a lot better team than the one I took over in Philadelphia," Ryan said, referring to the 1986 Eagles. In three years, he had won the division title in the tough NFC East. That he never won a playoff game in three tries spelled Ryan's eventual doom. Now he has outlasted Norman Braman, "the guy in France" owner of the Eagles who fired him. And Bidwill displayed a stroke of genius by naming Ryan not only coach but general manager, insuring that Ryan couldn't start a feud with himself. "We'll get along real fine. Both Buddys have great personalities," Ryan said.

Ryan opened shop by raiding Braman's Eagles of defensive stars Clyde Simmons and Seth Joyner as the last act of defiance before Braman sold the team. It is the defense that Ryan feels needs the most help, and where he feels most comfortable helping. The offense was outscored only by the 49ers, Cowboys, and Packers in the NFC, and if last year's top draft choice, Garrison Hearst, can crawl out of Ryan's doghouse, it could be better. Steve



STEVE BEUERLEIN



GARRISON HEARST

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Davis, 100 points on 37 extra points and 21 field goals . . . 10th
 RUSHING—Moore, 1,018 yards on 263 carries, 3.9 avg., 9 TDs . . . 7th
 PASSING—Beuerlein, 258 of 418 attempts for 3,164 yards and 18 TDs . . . 6th
 RECEIVING—Centers, 66 receptions for 603 yards, 9.1 avg., 3 TDs . . . T9th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Lynch, 3 for 13 yards, 4.3 average . . . T5th
 PUNTING—Camarillo, 73 punts, 43.7 avg., longest 61 yards . . . 3rd
 PUNT RETURNS—Bailey, 35 for 282 yards, 8.1 avg., 1 TD . . . 8th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Bailey, 31 for 699 yards, 22.5 average . . . 5th
 SACKS—Harvey, 9.5 sacks . . . T6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
 13 CHICAGO (N)
 19 At Detroit (N)
 25 At Denver (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

		1993 SCORES
September	4 At L.A. Rams	38-10
	11 N.Y. GIANTS (N)	17-6
	18 At Cleveland	—
	25 OPEN DATE	—
October	2 MINNESOTA	—
	9 At Dallas	15-20
	16 At Washington	17-10
	23 DALLAS	10-17
	30 PITTSBURGH (N)	—
November	6 At Philadelphia	17-23
	13 At N.Y. Giants	17-19
	20 PHILADELPHIA	16-3
	27 CHICAGO	—
December	4 At Houston	—
	11 WASHINGTON	36-6
	18 CINCINNATI	—
	24 At Atlanta	—

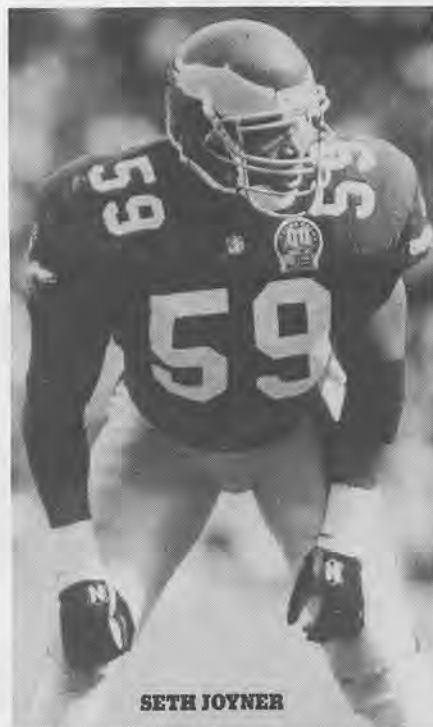
Beuerlein will become the first quarterback to start for the Cardinals two consecutive years since the team moved to Arizona in 1988. In his first full year as an NFL starter, Beuerlein set career highs in completions, attempts, yards, touchdowns, percentage, and passer rating. Ryan likes young ex-Bear Will Furrer and old ex-Bear, ex-Charger, ex-Eagle, ex-Viking Jim McMahon as backups.

Hearst's rehabilitation from major knee surgery was not progressing to Ryan's satisfaction when he offered the young prospect in pre-draft trade talks. If he's healthy, Hearst has the ability to elevate the Cards to a new level. If not, Ryan still has a 1,000-yard rusher in Ron Moore, a fourth-round find a year ago who is so good the Cardinals are talking about pairing him with Hearst if possible. Fullback and third-down back Larry Centers was pursued in free agency and kept after Ryan gave up on the versatile but small Johnny Bailey. To replace Bailey, the Cards drafted the University of Arizona's Chuck Levy, who figures to help in seven ways, fitting nicely in the new cap system that puts a premium on versatility. Besides serving as a third-down specialist, Levy will return punts and kickoffs and can serve as a holder, a backup wide receiver, a two-point option quarterback, and an emergency quarterback.

The receiving trio of Gary Clark, Randal Hill, and Ricky Proehl compares favorably with any group in the league as long as Clark can continue to stave off age. He's 32 and still tough. Losing blocking tight end Walter Reeves to Cleveland leaves only Derek Ware, with young Chad Fann and sixth-round draftee Terry Samuels to help.

On the offensive line, last year's highly rated rookies, Ernest Dye and Ben Coleman, are

mur's "Big Nickel" alignment of five backs and install his own brand instead. He has many tools with which to work, starting with 24-year-old tackle Eric Swann. Already, Ryan is comparing Swann favorably with the great tackles he has coached, such as Philadelphia's Jerome Brown, Chicago's Dan Hampton, Houston's Ray Childress, and Minnesota's Alan Page. "Darndest thing I've ever seen," Ryan said when studying the huge, powerful Swann. Playing only nine games because of a knee injury, Swann had the kind of game on October 17 against Washington that



SETH JOYNER

inspires legend. He made 12 tackles, forced and recovered a fumble, had two sacks, two hurries, and a safety. Ryan's problem is finding people to surround him. He started in Philadelphia with Simmons, who had 19 sacks the last year he played with Reggie White, but dropped to five without White. He will play right end, with Swann at left tackle. Who will play between them? Keith Rucker might if he isn't too fat. End Michael Bankston could move over if somebody else can play left end. Chad Brown and third-round draft pick Eric England are candidates for the left side.

Joyner will make whoever plays left end more effective. He might be the best outside linebacker in the league. That Ryan pursued him over Wilber Marshall is a telling endorsement. In the middle, Ryan's reliance on a heady presence could finally reward Eric Hill with overdue recognition. He may be the best unknown player in football. On draft day, Ryan handed the right-linebacker spot to first pick Jamir Miller of UCLA, who will have to adjust to the rigors and discipline of the pros and Ryan's defense at the tender age of 20. He won't turn 21 until November. Veterans Garth Jax, Tyrone Stowe, Brett Wallerstedt, and David Braxton are the backups, along with fourth-round Terry Irving.

Cornerback Robert Massey signed with the Lions, so the Cards traded with the Bills for J.D. Williams, who will play opposite left cor-

ner Aeneas Williams, no relation. Like Hill, Aeneas Williams is a player waiting to be discovered. Former corner Lorenzo Lynch is Ryan's strong safety, the linebacker type important to the "46" alignment. Michael Zordich made the high-priced Chuck Cecil expendable at free safety. Versatile John Booty, speedy Steve Lofton, and special-teams ace Odie Harris will be joined by mid-round draft choices Perry Carter and John Reece in the secondary.

Ryan released the popular and productive punter Rich Camarillo for the less expensive Jeff Feagles of the Eagles, admittedly sacrificing a yard or two in average for several hundred thousand dollars, a concession to Mr. Salary Cap. Greg Davis is a solid place-kicker; Levy should take over the return chores.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
63	Bankston, Michael	DL	6-3	280	24	Sam Houston St.
70	Baxley, Rob	T	6-5	295	25	Iowa
88	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	250	35	Washington State
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-3	210	29	Notre Dame
25	Blount, Eric	RB	5-9	200	24	North Carolina
42	Booty, John	S	6-0	180	29	Texas Christian
54	Braxton, David	LB	6-2	240	29	Wake Forest
78	Brown, Chad	DE	6-7	265	23	Mississippi
26	Cecil, Chuck	FS	6-0	185	30	Arizona
37	Centers, Larry	RB	5-11	215	26	Stephen F. Austin
17	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-4	225	29	Washington
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	175	32	James Madison
62	Coleman, Ben	T	6-6	335	23	Wake Forest
11	Cook, Mike	WR	6-4	205	23	Stanford
59	Cunningham, Ed	C	6-3	285	25	Washington
64	Cunningham, Rick	T	6-7	320	27	Texas A&M
5	Davis, Greg	K	6-0	205	29	The Citadel
22	Duerson, Dave	SS	6-1	220	34	Notre Dame
65	Dye, Ernest	T	6-6	325	23	South Carolina
83	Edwards, Anthony	WR	5-10	190	28	N. Mex. Highlands
80	Fann, Chad	TE	6-3	250	24	Florida A&M
2	Feagles, Jeff	P	6-1	205	28	Miami
2	Furrer, Will	QB	6-3	210	26	Virginia Tech
31	Harris, Odie	S	6-0	190	28	Sam Houston St.
23	Hearst, Garrison	RB	5-11	215	23	Georgia
58	Hill, Eric	LB	6-2	255	28	LSU
81	Hill, Randal	WR	5-10	180	25	Miami
97	Hyche, Steve	LB	6-3	250	31	Livingston
80	Jackson, Robert	WR	6-2	200	25	Central State
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6-2	250	31	Florida State
72	Johnson, Chuckie	DT	6-4	310	25	Auburn
55	Jones, Jock	LB	6-3	240	26	Virginia Tech
75	Jones, Mike	DE	6-4	295	25	N.C. State
	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	235	30	UTEP
	Kirk, Randy	LB	6-2	231	30	San Diego St.
33	Lewis, Lance	RB	5-11	224	24	Nebraska
28	Lofton, Steve	CB	5-9	185	26	Texas A&M
29	Lynch, Lorenzo	CB	5-11	200	31	Cal-Sacramento
94	Merritt, David	LB	6-1	237	23	N.C. State
74	Moody, Mike	T	6-7	305	25	USC
30	Moore, Ron	RB	5-10	220	24	Pittsburg State
50	Nunn, Freddie Joe	DE	6-5	255	32	Mississippi
27	Oldham, Chris	CB	5-10	195	26	Oregon
66	Perez, Chris	OL	6-6	295	25	Kansas
87	Proehl, Ricky	WR	6-0	190	26	Wake Forest
82	Rolle, Butch	HB/TE	6-4	245	30	Michigan State
79	Rucker, Keith	DL	6-4	360	26	Ohio Wesleyan
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-5	280	34	UCLA
	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	280	30	Western Carolina
90	Stowe, Tyrone	LB	6-2	250	29	Rutgers
98	Swann, Eric	DT	6-5	295	24	None
71	Tucker, Mark	C/G	6-3	290	26	USC
52	Wallerstedt, Brett	LB	6-1	240	24	Arizona State
85	Ware, Derek	HB/TE	6-3	250	27	Central State
35	Williams, Aeneas	CB	5-10	190	26	Southern
68	Wolf, Joe	OL	6-6	295	28	Boston College
38	Zordich, Michael	S	6-1	201	31	Penn State

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Miller, Jamir	LB	6-4	235	UCLA
2	Levy, Chuck	RB	6-0	199	Arizona
3	Ruddy, Tim	C	6-1	270	Notre Dame
3	Braham, Rich	G	6-5	260	West Virginia
3	England, Eric	DE	6-2	283	Texas A&M
4	Carter, Perry	DB	6-1	190	Southern Miss
4	Reece, John	DB	6-0	200	Nebraska
4	Irving, Terry	LB	6-2	225	McNeese State
5	Redmon, Anthony	G	6-5	288	Auburn
6	Samuels, Terry	TE	6-2	245	Kentucky
7	Harvey, Frank	RB	6-0	237	Georgia

*Traded to Miami Dolphins



CLYDE SIMMONS

expected to start at the guard spots to replace the departed Lance Smith (Giants) and Mark May, with veteran Joe Wolf backing up. Dye and Coleman both were victims of knee injuries last year, part of the injury jinx that helped sink Bugel. Left tackle Luis Sharpe is still going strong after 182 starts in 12 years. Right tackle Rick Cunningham, unmistakable at 6-7 and 320 pounds, and Sharpe each started all 16 games last year and center Ed Cunningham started 15. The line allowed just 33 sacks, the fewest since 1978 for the Cards. Third-rounder Rich Braham will join Wolf, Mark Tuckey, Mike Moody, and fifth-rounder Anthony Redmon in the fight for reserve roles.

The defense allowed only 27 touchdowns, the fewest by the Cardinals since the merger. But Ryan will completely revamp Fritz Shur-

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Rich Kotite is the dean of coaches in the NFC East. He earned the distinction in three years, all of which means nothing to the Eagles' new owner, Jeffrey Lurie. Norman Braman hired Kotite after firing Buddy Ryan, so whatever sense of security that knowledge provided Kotite has disappeared with the \$185 million Lurie paid for the club. The outstanding job Kotite did last season in keeping a sinking ship afloat will mean little to a new boss who loves the NFL draft so much he used to hole up in front of ESPN and study lists. For Kotite's sake, it can be assumed Lurie is familiar with the list of good players who have punched a one-way ticket out of Philadelphia over the last two years.

As if two major injuries in three years to star quarterback Randall Cunningham weren't enough to discourage any coach, defensive end Clyde Simmons and linebacker Seth Joyner signed with Buddy Ryan's Cardinals this offseason, following the exodus that began with Keith Jackson, Reggie White, and Keith Byars. Despite the turmoil and uncertainty, including dire predictions of last-place

RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Williams, 60 points on 10 touchdown receptions. . . T17th
RUSHING—Walker, 746 yards on 174 carries, 4.3 avg., 1 TD. . . 9th
PASSING—Cunningham, 76 of 110 attempts for 850 yards and 5 TDs. . . unranked
RECEIVING—Walker, 75 receptions for 610 yards, 8.1 avg., 3 TDs. . . 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Allen, 6 for 201 yards, 33.5 avg., 4 TDs. . . T2nd
PUNTING—Feagles, 83 punts, 40.0 avg., longest 60 yards. . . 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Sikahema, 33 for 275 yards, 8.3 average. . . 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sikahema, 30 for 579 yards, 19.3 average. . . 13th
SACKS—Harmon, 11.5 sacks. . . T3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Chicago (N)
 13 N.Y. JETS (N)
 20 CINCINNATI (N)
 26 At Atlanta (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

		1993 SCORES
September	4 At N.Y. Giants	10-21
	12 CHICAGO (N)	6-17
	18 GREEN BAY	—
	25 OPEN DATE	—
October	2 At San Francisco	37-34
	9 WASHINGTON (N)	34-31
	16 At Dallas	17-23
	24 HOUSTON (N)	—
	30 At Washington	17-14
November	6 ARIZONA	23-17
	13 CLEVELAND	—
	20 At Arizona	3-16
	27 At Atlanta	—
December	4 DALLAS	10-23
	11 At Pittsburgh	—
	18 N.Y. GIANTS	3-7
	24 At Cincinnati	—

BILL ROMANOWSKI



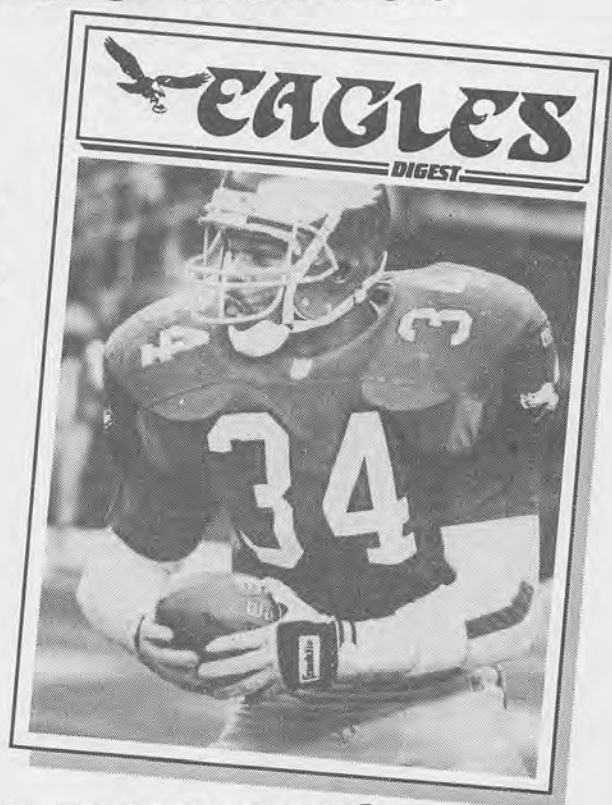
finishes in some circles, Kotite managed an 8-8 record, enough to earn him some consideration for Coach of the Year. With Cunningham, they were 4-0. After losing eight of their next nine, they finished on a three-game winning streak. During the losing, they got better, a tribute to coaching. None of their last four defeats was by more than a touchdown.

Cunningham returns after suffering a broken left fibula against the Jets on October 3. He has finished only 19 games in three seasons now and is 31 years old. The Eagles can thank cornerback Eric Allen for prolonging Cunningham's career. As Allen ran into the end zone at the end of a spectacular 94-yard interception return to beat the Jets, he handed the ball to Cunningham, who was standing on crutches, so depressed he admitted that he had decided to retire. Allen's gesture energized Cunningham and convinced him to per-

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sist. At the draft, Cunningham received another setback when it was reported the Eagles had mentioned his name in trade talks while maneuvering for a higher first-round choice. Cunningham was upset.

"His name wasn't the only one that came up," said Eagles vice president John Wooten. "When you're talking about moving up in the draft, a lot of names get called. The real deal is simple: Randall Cunningham is a Philadelphia Eagle."

Cunningham is the Philadelphia Eagle. If he isn't shell-shocked by the two leg injuries, he

remains the most dangerous one-man wrecking crew in football. Here's a guess: He will remain as close to the pocket as possible for as long as possible. In Cunningham's absence, Bubba Brister looked like more than a journeyman quarterback. The ex-Steeler was the NFC's fourth-ranked passer and set a club record with his ratio of touchdown passes to interceptions (14-5). After flirting with the Saints, Brister re-signed with the Eagles as proven insurance.

Losing Cunningham was the most obvious blow, but the Eagles also lost Pro Bowl receiver Fred Barnett for the final 12 games with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. His absence coincided with Cunningham's and robbed Brister of a much-needed threat. Yet the Eagles endured. Calvin Williams emerged as a touchdown-maker, snagging 10 passes for scores, ranking him behind only Jerry Rice, Andre Rison, and Sterling Sharpe. Victor Bailey developed fast to become the top rookie receiver in the NFC. With Michael Young joining the mix, Cunningham should have an impressive stable of wideouts at his disposal. Tight end Mark Bavaro was the comeback player of the year in many minds, with 43 receptions and six touchdowns on legs supposedly long gone. Hard to believe, but he caught more passes than Keith Jackson did in Miami and always has been the superior blocker. Maurice Johnson is the backup.

The Eagles drafted little Charlie Garner of Tennessee to provide speed and dash to the running attack. At 5-8 and 180 pounds, Garner probably won't be asked to absorb full-time pounding, but as a change of pace from Herschel Walker and James Joseph, he may make it difficult for Heath Sherman and Vaughn Hebronn to find suitable playing time. A great athlete with great moves, Garner can catch and add an ingredient missing in the offense for years. The Eagles finished in the middle of the pack in rushing, with Walker averaging a respectable 4.3 yards, but Herschel is 32 years old and not getting any faster.

Help for Cunningham up front arrives with two of the top four draft picks: huge tackle

Bernard Williams and tough guard Joe Panos. The Eagles hope the 6-9, 320-pound Williams can play the left side and provide help for 34-year-old Broderick Thompson, who missed the second half of last season with an injured calf. Left guard Eric Floyd also missed the last 13 games with a knee injury, so Panos can be a factor along with veterans Mike Schadt and Ron Hallstrom. Center Dave Alexander received team MVP votes and has started 92 consecutive games despite the constant change around him. Lester Holmes came on as a rookie at right guard next to big Antone Davis at tackle. Other backups include Tom McHale and John Hudson.

Defensive coordinator Bud Carson keeps plugging away, filling holes left by players jumping ship. The Eagles signed William Fuller of the Oilers and traded for Burt Grossman of the Chargers to play left and right ends, respectively. They drafted UCLA's giant, 325-pound Bruce Walker, suspended all last season for off-field problems, to fill the middle of the line alongside the active Andy Harmon, the slow-developing Leonard Renfro, and Tommy Jeter and William Perry, a likely dinner companion for Walker. Tim Harris is a situation rusher and Mike Flores a backup.

A trade for 49ers linebacker Bill Romanowski will ease the loss of Joyner, with Britt Hager vying for playing time outside and in the middle, where Byron Evans remains a force. Evans is returning from a broken forearm. William Thomas is emerging fast at right linebacker and Derrick Oden provides backup help. Cornerback Allen is as good as they get. He returned four of his six interceptions for touchdowns last year, tying an NFL record. He plays opposite little Mark McMillian. Mike Reid could push strong safety Andre Waters out of job, with Rich Miano slotted for free safety. Rookies Eric Zomalt and Marvin Goodwin will compete with backups Derrick Frazier and Corey Barlow.

The Eagles signed place-kicker Eddie Murray from the Cowboys, but lost punter Jeff Feagles to the Cardinals and kick returner Vai Sikahema to television.

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
72	Alexander, David	C	6-3	275	30	Tulsa
21	Allen, Eric	CB	5-10	180	29	Arizona State
82	Bailey, Victor	WR	6-2	196	24	Missouri
62	Baldinger, Brian	OL	6-4	278	34	Duke
24	Barlow, Corey	CB	5-9	182	24	Auburn
43	Barnett, Alonzo	CB	6-2	210	25	N. Carolina A&T
86	Barnett, Fred	WR	6-0	199	28	Arkansas State
84	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	31	Notre Dame
6	Brister, Bubba	QB	6-3	207	31	NE Louisiana
39	Brooks, Tony	RB	6-0	230	25	Notre Dame
64	Brown, Curt	DL	6-5	260	24	North Carolina
71	Chalenski, Mike	DT	6-5	288	24	UCLA
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	205	31	UNLV
78	Davis, Antone	T	6-4	325	27	Tennessee
56	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	235	330	Arizona
9	Fiedler, Jay	QB	6-1	215	23	Dartmouth
95	Flores, Mike	DE	6-3	256	28	Louisville
61	Floyd, Eric	G	6-5	310	29	Auburn
37	Frazier, Derrick	CB	5-10	178	24	Texas A&M
33	Frizzell, William	S	6-3	206	32	N. Carolina Cent.
93	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	274	32	North Carolina
69	Grossman, Burt	DE	6-4	275	27	Pittsburgh
54	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	225	28	Texas
96	Hall, Ray	DT	6-4	267	23	Washington State
65	Hallstrom, Ron	G	6-6	315	35	Iowa
91	Harmon, Andy	DT	6-4	265	25	Kent State
97	Harris, Tim	DE	6-6	258	30	Memphis State
45	Hebronn, Vaughn	RB	5-8	196	24	Virginia Tech
73	Holmes, Lester	G	6-3	301	25	Jackson State
98	Hudson, John	OL	6-2	275	26	Auburn
96	Jeter, Tommy	DT	6-5	282	25	Texas
87	Johnson, Maurice	TE	6-2	243	27	Temple
32	Joseph, James	RB	6-2	222	27	Auburn
19	Lawrence, Reggie	WR	6-0	178	24	N.C. State
35	McFadden, Dwight	RB	6-0	190	22	USC
24	McGill, Jason	WR	6-0	192	22	Georgia Tech
68	McHale, Tom	G	6-4	290	31	Cornell
88	McKenzie, Mike	TE	6-2	247	24	Baylor
29	McMillian, Mark	CB	5-7	162	24	Alabama
38	Miano, Rich	S	6-1	200	32	Hawaii
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-11	195	38	Tulane
58	Oden, Derrick	LB	5-11	230	24	Alabama
26	O'Neal, Brian	FB	6-0	233	24	Penn State
90	Perry, William	DT	6-2	335	32	Clemson
42	Reid, Mike	S	6-1	218	24	N.C. State
94	Renfro, Leonard	DT	6-2	291	24	Colorado
81	Richardson, Paul	WR	6-3	204	25	UCLA
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	231	28	Boston College
55	Rose, Ken	LB	6-1	215	32	UNLV
79	Schadt, Mike	G	6-5	290	31	Queens (Canada)
3	Schrock, Chris	P	6-2	225	24	Boston University
75	Selby, Rob	G	6-3	286	27	Auburn
23	Sherman, Heath	RB	6-0	205	27	Texas A&I
30	Smith, Otis	CB	5-11	184	29	Missouri
85	Sydney, Jeff	WR	5-6	170	25	Hawaii
46	Thomas, Markus	RB	5-10	192	24	Eastern Kentucky
51	Thomas, William	LB	6-2	218	26	Texas A&M
76	Thompson, Broderick	T	6-5	295	34	Kansas
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	225	32	Georgia
20	Waters, Andre	SS	5-11	200	32	Cheyney
89	Williams, Calvin	WR	5-11	190	27	Purdue
57	Woodard, Marc	LB	6-0	234	24	Mississippi St.
27	Wooten, Al	FB	5-11	232	24	Syracuse
83	Young, Michael	WR	6-1	183	32	UCLA

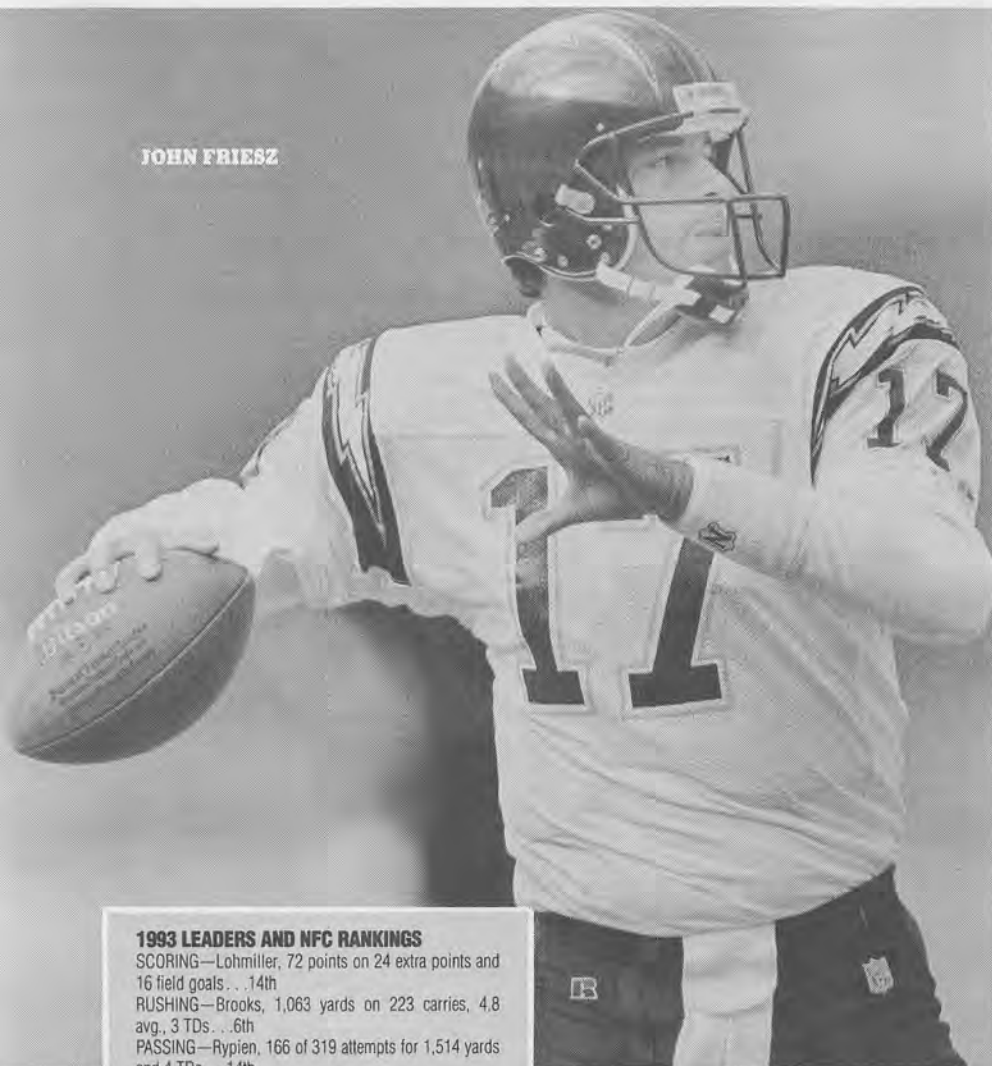
DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Williams, Bernard	OT	6-8	317	Georgia
2	Walker, Bruce	DE	6-3	326	UCLA
2	Garner, Charlie	RB	5-9	184	Tennessee
3	Panos, Joe	G	6-3	290	Wisconsin
3	Zomalt, Eric	DB	6-0	95	California
5	Goodwin, Marvin	DB	6-0	199	UCLA
6	McCoy, Ryan	LB	6-3	240	Houston
6	Berger, Mitch	P	6-3	220	Colorado
7	Montgomery, Mark	RB	6-1	210	Wisconsin

HERSCHEL WALKER



JOHN FRIESZ



1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lohmiller, 72 points on 24 extra points and 16 field goals...14th
RUSHING—Brooks, 1,063 yards on 223 carries, 4.8 avg., 3 TDs...6th
PASSING—Rypien, 166 of 319 attempts for 1,514 yards and 4 TDs...14th
RECEIVING—Sanders, 58 receptions for 638 yards, 11.0 avg., 4 TDs...116th
INTERCEPTIONS—Carter, 6 for 54 yards, 9.0 average...12nd
PUNTING—Roby, 78 punts, 44.2 avg., longest 60 yards...2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Mitchell, 29 for 193 yards, 6.7 average...9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mitchell, 33 for 678 yards, 20.5 average...10th
SACKS—Coleman, 6.0 sacks...113th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Buffalo (N)
 12 KANSAS CITY (N)
 18 At New England (N)
 26 PITTSBURGH

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	SEATTLE	—
	11	At New Orleans	—
	18	At N.Y. Giants	6-20
	25	ATLANTA	30-17
October	2	DALLAS	35-16
	9	At Philadelphia (N)	31-34
	16	ARIZONA	10-17
	23	At Indianapolis	30-24
November	30	PHILADELPHIA	14-17
	6	SAN FRANCISCO	—
	13	OPEN DATE	—
	20	At Dallas	3-38
	27	N.Y. GIANTS	7-41
December	4	At Tampa Bay	23-17
	11	At Arizona	6-36
	18	TAMPA BAY	—
	24	At L.A. Rams	6-10

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

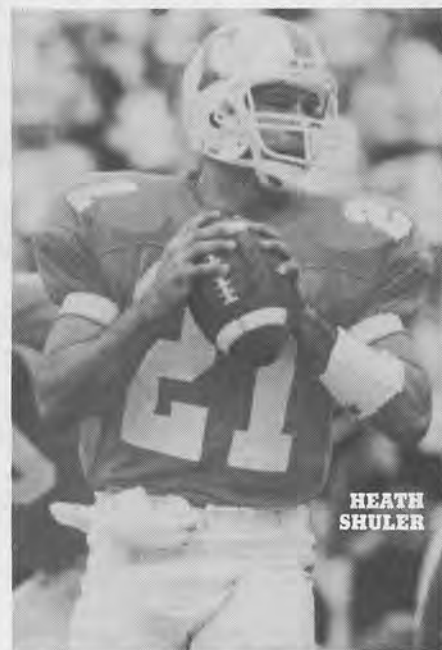
The NFC East beast boasts three new coaches this year and the man in the middle is the Redskins' Norv Turner. The Cardinals tried to hire him after he gave his word to Washington. Had he stayed in Dallas, who knows? Maybe he would have succeeded Jimmy Johnson. Turner picked the Redskins, following in the footsteps of Richie Petitbon, who couldn't quite sustain the Joe Gibbs legacy. The Redskins are a team in need of major rebuilding in a division so competitive that rebuilding is never fashionable. There are three new coaches this year because the NFC East has supplied six of the last eight Super Bowl champs. Peer pressure is the worst kind.

When perusing the Redskin roster, insiders fear that Washington's demanding football fans will soon discover what a good football coach Petitbon was to win four games last year. If Turner likes a challenge, he picked the right place. Gibbs didn't earn a reputation as a genius for nothing. He knew when to fold them. One of the great teams of the '80s was coming apart everywhere he looked. Petitbon only presided over the final unraveling.

Turner will start over with the No. 1 quarterback in the draft, Tennessee's Heath Shuler. As soon as that knowledge suggests comfort, somebody will remind Turner that Troy Aikman's Cowboys finished 1-15 his first season.

Turner was not in Dallas then, so he did not experience the feeling. His primary task in 1994 will be to get Shuler through it in one piece. The Redskins gave up on Mark Rypien, who refused a pay cut three years after winning the Super Bowl. They watched Cary Conklin and Rich Gannon flounder. To provide a cushion for Shuler's entry into the big time, Turner signed San Diego veteran John Friesz, who played well in relief of Stan Humphries last season but not well enough to supplant the former Redskin quarterback that Petitbon always preferred over Rypien. Friesz may start the season until Shuler dries behind his ears, but nobody can realistically expect either quarterback to perform miracles with this suddenly-unrecognizable team. Turner became the only coach to draft two quarterbacks when he selected Tulsa's Gus Frototte in the seventh round, so it is obvious he is starting from ground zero.

Gone is the Posse. Turner hopes he doesn't have to send a search party to find replacements. Receivers Art Monk and Ricky Sanders, leftovers from the trio that included Gary Clark in 1992, were sent away without fanfare, marking an unfortunate truth of life in the free-agent lane. To underscore their desperation, the Redskins signed 33-year-old Henry Ellard



HEATH SHULER

from the Rams to help replace the 36-year-old Monk and the 32-year-old Sanders. This puts Desmond Howard on an ever-widening spot. The 1991 Heisman Trophy winner is coming off two seasons that have yet to justify him as a first-round draft choice, let alone the fourth pick of the litter. If Howard doesn't begin to remind people of the player who starred at Michigan, Turner will allow third-round draftee Tydus Winans of Fresno State a chance to compare Shuler with his college teammate, Trent Dilfer. The Redskins signed tight end Ethan Horton (Raiders) to complement blocker Ron Middleton, with rookie Kurt Haws backing up. The tight end has a chance to star in Turner's offense.

Running back is the strength of the Redskins and Reggie Brooks is the running back. The Notre Damer outrushed every rookie except his former college teammate, Jerome

Bettis of the Rams, Brooks had the two longest runs of the season in the NFL and was easily the club's MVP. Turner saw the value of a top runner firsthand in Dallas and will not ignore this fact of football fundamentals. Frank Wycheck and Earnest Byner will vie for the full-back position. Ricky Ervins remains talented and almost forgotten and the versatile Brian Mitchell isn't sure if he will fit.

Like the Posse, the Hogs continue their face-lift. Gone is the valuable Joe Jacoby and the reliable Jeff Bostic. Turner brought John Gesek with him to play center and drafted Temple's Tre Johnson to contend at either guard or tackle. Raleigh McKenzie is solid at right guard next to tackle Ed Simmons. Jim Lachey is expected back from injury at left tackle, with Ray Brown at left guard. Mark Schlereth is struggling after making the Pro

status. Jeff Faulkner and Jim Wahler are journeymen. As if to hope against hope, the Redskins drafted a pass rusher named Dexter, last name Nottage, from Florida A&M.

Signing left linebacker Ken Harvey from the Cardinals was the best thing the Redskins did for their defense. With Harvey opposite the productive Andre Collins and the reliable Kurt Gouveia in the middle, the linebacking should be more than adequate. At age 36 and starting his 16th season, Monte Coleman continues to be one of the all-time great role players. The guy tied Andre Collins for most sacks last year with six.

With an ineffective front, the secondary suffers. Darrell Green's age (34) is catching up with his speed at one corner and rookie Tom Carter, despite six interceptions, was too young at the other. He will learn. Inside, safe-

ties Brad Edwards and Danny Copeland are coming off average years. Backups include A. J. Johnson, Alvoid Mays, Johnny Thomas, Todd Bowles, and Darryl Morrison.

For the second year, Chip Lohmiller was unable to live up to his spectacular season of place-kicking in 1991. He is representative of his team. The punter is veteran Reggie Roby. Mitchell led the club in kickoff and punt returns, but he was looking for work elsewhere.



Bowl two years ago. Mo Elewonibi, Matt Elliott, Darryl Moore, Vernice Smith, Paul Siever, Greg Huntington, and rookie Joseph Patton are in the mix for backup spots and Trevor Matich was signed from the Colts as the long snapper and versatile sub.

Under Petitbon, an acknowledged defensive mastermind, the Redskins plummeted to 26th in yardage allowed and 23rd in points yielded. Clearly, more than coaching was to blame. Petitbon lost the firepower in his front seven with the departure of Wilber Marshall and the decline of Charles Mann and Carl Banks. New coordinator Ron Lynn arrived from Cincinnati to try to correct the problems. Petitbon didn't exactly wish him good luck. The Redskins are putting stock in second-year rusher Sterling Palmer, who showed promise with 4½ sacks. Shane Collins, Al Noga, and Jason Buck are among the ends auditioning for a starting job with converted linebacker Tony Woods from the Rams. Tim Johnson is solid at tackle and Lynn is anxiously waiting for a healthy, consistent Bobby Wilson, who has yet to live up to his first-round



REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
29	Beil, William	FB	5-11	203	23	Georgia Tech
40	Brooks, Reggie	RB	5-8	202	23	Notre Dame
67	Brown, Ray	T	6-5	312	32	Arkansas State
99	Buck, Jason	DE	6-4	274	31	BYU
25	Carter, Tom	CB	5-11	181	22	Notre Dame
31	Clifton, Gregory	WR	5-11	175	26	Johnson C. Smith
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	242	36	Central Arkansas
55	Collins, Andre	LB	6-1	231	26	Penn State
91	Collins, Shane	DE	6-3	267	25	Arizona State
61	Davis, Travis	DE	6-2	275	28	Michigan State
58	Dingle, Nate	LB	6-3	256	23	Cincinnati
33	Duckett, Tico	RB	5-10	195	24	Michigan State
27	Edwards, Brad	FS	6-2	207	28	South Carolina
73	Earle, Guy	T	6-4	290	26	Chadron State
24	Eilers, Pat	FS	5-11	197	28	Notre Dame
64	Elewonibi, Moe	T	6-6	286	29	BYU
65	Elard, Henry	WR	5-11	182	33	Fresno State
52	Elliott, Matt	C	6-1	265	26	Michigan
32	Ervins, Ricky	RB	5-7	195	26	USC
93	Faulkner, Jeff	DE	6-4	305	30	Southern
50	Floyd, Gonzalo	LB	6-3	233	23	UTEP
19	Friesz, John	QB	6-4	218	27	Idaho
62	Geater, Ron	DT	6-5	272	25	Iowa
75	Gesek, John	C	6-5	282	31	Cal St-Sacramento
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	233	28	BYU
90	Graf, Rick	DE	6-5	244	30	Wisconsin
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	34	Texas A&I
23	Hall, Chris	S	6-2	184	24	East Carolina
56	Hamilton, Rick	LB	6-2	241	24	Central Florida
57	Harvey, Ken	LB	6-2	245	29	California
6	Hinchliff, Willie	WR	6-0	195	25	None
86	Hobbs, Stephen	WR	5-11	200	29	North Alabama
95	Hochertz, Martin	DE	6-5	269	26	Southern Illinois
96	Hollingsworth, Lamont	LB	6-3	245	24	USC
89	Horton, Ethan	TE	6-6	240	32	North Carolina
80	Howard, Desmond	WR	5-9	180	24	Michigan
60	Huntington, Greg	C	6-3	287	24	Penn State
88	Jenkins, James	TE	6-2	241	27	Rutgers
47	Johnson, A.J.	CB	5-8	175	27	SW Texas State
78	Johnson, Tim	DT	6-3	275	29	Penn State
79	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	296	31	Ohio State
52	Lawrence, Tyler	LB	6-6	248	24	North Carolina St.
8	Lohmiller, Chip	K	6-3	215	29	Minnesota
59	Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	297	33	BYU
20	Mays, Alvoid	CB	5-9	172	28	West Virginia
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	C/G	6-2	277	31	Tennessee
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	262	29	Auburn
73	Mills, Lamar	DE	6-5	270	23	Indiana
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB	5-10	203	26	SW Louisiana
62	Moore, Darryl	G	6-2	292	25	UTEP
37	Morrison, Darryl	CB	5-11	185	23	Arizona
4	O'Hara, Pat	QB	6-3	205	26	USC
10	Oriaba, Austin	WR	5-11	195	25	Washington State
45	Owens, Dondre	CB	5-9	170	22	Howard
97	Palmer, Sterling	DE	6-5	256	23	Florida State
1	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	258	33	Iowa
82	Rowe, Ray	TE	6-2	256	25	San Diego State
39	Rush, Tyrone	RB	5-11	196	23	North Alabama
46	Satterfield, Brian	FB	6-0	206	25	North Alabama
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	278	28	Idaho
74	Siever, Paul	T	6-6	294	25	Penn State
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	300	31	E. Washington
60	Simmons, Jason	DE	6-5	250	24	Ohio State
37	Smith, Cedric	FB	5-10	222	26	Florida
61	Smith, Vernice	G	6-3	298	29	Florida A&M
84	Stock, Mark	WR	6-0	180	28	VMI
41	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	191	30	Baylor
18	Williams, Keith	WR	5-10	177	23	San Diego State
94	Wilson, Bobby	DT	6-2	297	26	Michigan State
98	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	269	29	Pittsburgh
22	Wycheck, Frank	FB	6-3	235	23	Maryland

DRAFTTEES

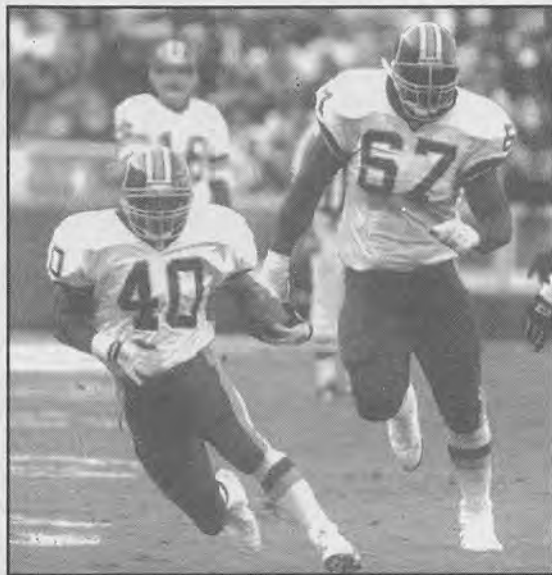
rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Shuler, Heath	QB	6-2	221	Tennessee
2	Johnson, Tre	OL	6-3	315	Temple
3	Wynans, Tydus	WR	5-11	180	Fresno State
3	Patton, Joe	G	6-5	288	Alabama A&M
4	Haws, Kurt	TE	6-5	248	Utah
6	Nottage, Dexter	DE	6-4	273	Florida A&M
7	Ferrotte, Gus	QB	6-4	226	Tulsa

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STEVE YOUNG

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SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

After the last NFC championship game, 49ers coach George Seifert described the Cowboys as playground bullies. They were cocky and good enough to back it up. They taunted the 49ers, then whipped them for the second year in a row. They did it in San Francisco and then in Dallas, replacing the 49ers as the dominant team everyone feared. "You're humiliated," Seifert said.

So one of the first things the 49ers did to get even was sign the Cowboys' middle linebacker, Ken Norton. If you can't beat 'em, steal 'em. This was a difficult process for the 49ers, who labored throughout the offseason so close to the salary cap that they virtually had to juggle pennies to stay legal. Gone are the days when owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. could provide his coaches with the luxury of as many veteran role players and backups as they desired. Norton takes on a task of giant proportions. One of the most important cogs in the Cowboy defense must now figure out how to stop the Cowboy offense. The assignment

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Cofer, 107 points on 59 extra points and 16 field goals . . . 6th
RUSHING—Watters, 950 yards on 208 carries, 4.6 avg., 10 TDs . . . 8th
PASSING—Young, 314 of 462 attempts for 4,023 yards and 29 TDs . . . 1st
RECEIVING—Rice, 98 receptions for 1,503 yards, 15.3 avg., 15 TDs . . . 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—McGruder, 5 for 89 yards, 17.8 avg., 1 TD . . . T3rd
PUNTING—Wilmsmeyer, 42 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 61 yards . . . 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Carter, 34 for 411 yards, 12.1 avg., 1 TD . . . 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Carter, 25 for 494 yards, 19.8 average . . . 11th
SACKS—Stubblefield, 10.5 sacks . . . T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Arizona (N)
12 DENVER (N)
18 At San Diego (N)
26 SEATTLE (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

1993 SCORES

September	5	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	—
	11	At Kansas City	—
	18	At L.A. Rams	35-10
	25	NEW ORLEANS	42-7
October	2	PHILADELPHIA	34-37
	9	At Detroit	55-17
	16	At Atlanta	24-27
	23	TAMPA BAY	45-21
	30	OPEN DATE	—
November	6	At Washington	—
	13	DALLAS	17-26
	20	L.A. RAMS (N)	40-17
	28	At New Orleans (N)	13-16
December	4	ATLANTA	37-30
	11	At San Diego	—
	17	DENVER	—
	26	At Minnesota (N)	38-19

JERRY RICE

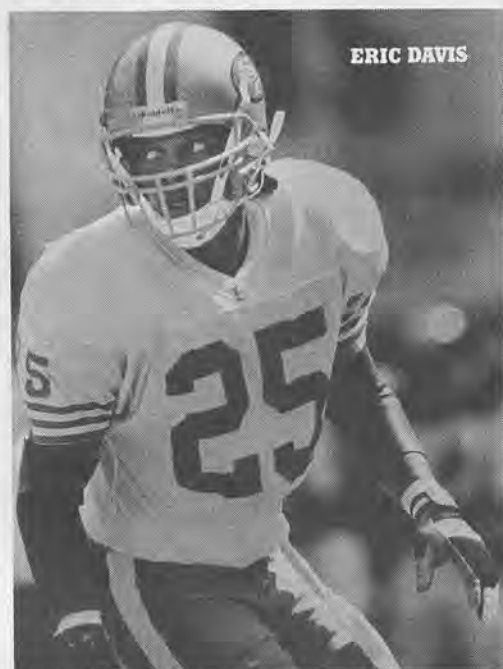


is not unlike the switch of pass rusher Charles Haley from the 49ers to the Cowboys two years ago. What goes around comes around.

It was defense that had kept Seifert's team on top. After all the ballyhoo over Joe Montana and Steve Young and who would be lucky enough to throw to Jerry Rice, it was defense that failed the 49ers the last two years. If nothing else, maybe Ronnie Lott and his defensive buddies finally will get their due for winning four Super Bowls. The 49ers have lost all three of the NFC title games they have played in the last four years. Their defense has slid from third to sixth to 15th the last two seasons. An overhaul is necessary and Seifert hired defen-

sive coordinator Ray Rhodes from the Packers to return the 49ers to the defense Rhodes left before going to Green Bay.

The offense remains No. 1, with quarterback Steve Young becoming the first passer to lead the league with a plus-100 rating three years in a row. He is football's most dangerous one-man wrecking crew. Nobody touches his consistent combination of plus-8 yards per pass attempt and 6-7 yards per rush. His 71 touchdown passes and 31 interceptions in his three years as a starter are numbers worthy of Montana. No wonder the 49ers broke their bank making sure they signed offensive linemen to protect him. Unable to afford to keep backup Steve Bono, the 49ers are convinced they found another gem in last year's eighth-round pick, Elvis Grbac. They also have Bill Musgrave, and if the 49ers no longer have cornered the quarterback market, they remain better off than some.



ERIC DAVIS

With Rice, they have cornered the receiver market. Three more touchdowns and he passes Jim Brown as the all-time leading TD scorer. Rice will turn 32 during his 10th season with practically no evidence of slowing down. After eight consecutive seasons of more than 1,000 yards, he has left little room for debate over who is the best receiver ever to play the game. John Taylor, also 32, is coming off a very good season as the man who takes pressure off Rice. The 49ers are looking for help from Odessa Turner, Sanjay Beach, and Nate Singleton and third-rounder Cory Fleming of Tennessee. At tight end, Brent Jones suffered a broken leg in the Pro Bowl and might not be 100 percent by season's start. He is the No. 2 target in the attack and is backed up by Ted Popson.

Ricky Watters scored five touchdowns against the Giants in the playoffs and finished 11th among all rushers (with 950 yards) despite sitting out three games. Only Marcus Allen (12) ran for more touchdowns than Watters' 10 during the regular season. Watters has

become such a fixture that he discouraged young backup Amp Lee. The 49ers drafted big Florida State fullback William Floyd in the first round to replace Tom Rathman and give Watters the blocking presence Rathman delivered for years. Marc Logan filled in admirably for the injured Rathman last year.

The 49ers re-signed tackles Steve Wallace and Harris Barton to insure stability up front, where the future of guard Guy McIntyre is uncertain. Center Jesse Sapolu made the Pro Bowl. Ralph Tamm plays right guard, with Harry Boatwain, Brian Bollinger, and Chris Dalman as backups.

To begin the defensive changes, the 49ers signed linebacker Gary Plummer (Chargers) before adding Norton. Then they traded linebacker Bill Romanowski to the Eagles on draft day, virtually cleaning house at one position. Mike Walter and John Johnson, starters in the Dallas game, and injured reserve linebacker Keith DeLong also are not expected to contribute in 1994. Big Kevin Mitchell of Syracuse was drafted in the second round to give Rhodes some beef and flexibility and linebackers Tony Peterson and Lee Woodall were added later in the draft. The 49ers discovered they simply weren't fast enough at linebacker to stay with the quick Cowboys.

Dana Stubblefield was outstanding as a pass rusher from the tackle spot. His 10½ sacks led all rookies and were the most by a 49er rookie since Charles Haley registered 12 in 1986. To give him help, the 49ers unloaded



KEN NORTON

fat Ted Washington to the Broncos and moved up in the draft to get Notre Dame's quick Bryant Young. The combination is yet another concession to the way the Cowboys do business. The Dallas defense is predicated on fast, penetrating tackles able to disrupt plays before they develop. The 49ers hope last year's other first-rounder, Todd Kelly,

drafted one notch after Stubblefield, will improve several notches from a disappointing first season and provide the outside rush the 49ers need. Overachiever Martin Harrison followed Stubblefield with six sacks while ends Troy Wilson and Dennis Brown had 5½ apiece. Brown needs to reach another level. Karl Wilson and Artie Smith provide depth.

Switching Merton Hanks from corner to free safety to replace Dana Hall resulted in big plays, including an electrifying Monday night interception return. Strong safety Tim McDonald improved as his first season with the 49ers progressed and was voted to another Pro Bowl. But the 49ers have to replace departed cornerback Don Griffin (Browns), a casualty of the salary cap. Second-round draft pick Tyrone Drakeford will get the first shot, with Michael McGruder and Adrian Hardy in reserve. Eric Davis is the left corner.

The 49ers were the only team to draft a place-kicker, taking Cal's Doug Brien in the third round. This means good-bye for Mike Cofer, who hit only 16 of 26 field goals. Punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer had a league-low 15 punts returned. Dexter Carter can return punts and kickoffs with the best of them, but can the 49ers afford him?

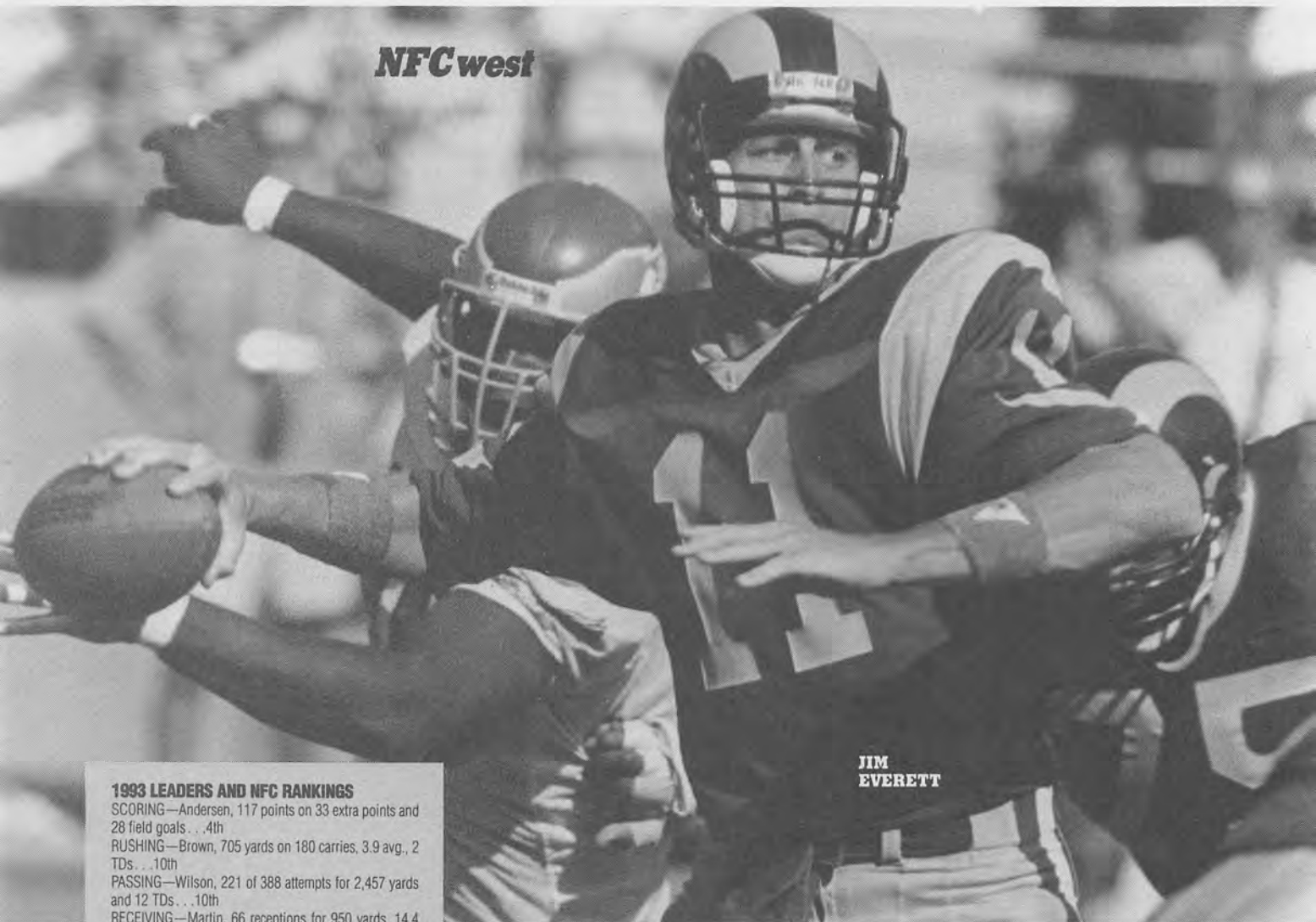
49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	266	30	North Carolina
65	Boatswain, Harry	T	6-4	295	25	New Haven
71	Bollinger, Brian	G	6-5	285	26	North Carolina
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	290	27	Washington
66	Bryant, Junior	DE	6-4	275	23	Notre Dame
50	Dalman, Chris	OL	6-3	285	24	Stanford
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	26	Jacksonville St.
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB	6-5	232	24	Michigan
28	Hall, Dana	S	6-2	206	25	Washington
36	Hanks, Merton	S	6-2	185	26	Iowa
45	Hardy, Adrian	CB	5-11	194	24	NW La
56	Harrison, Martin	LB	6-5	240	26	Washington
55	Johnson, John	LB	6-3	230	26	Clemson
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	31	Santa Clara
58	Kelly, Todd	DE	6-2	259	24	Tennessee
22	Lee, Amp	RB	5-11	200	23	Florida State
43	Logan, Marc	FB	6-0	212	29	Kentucky
46	McDonald, Tim	S	6-2	215	29	USC
26	McGruder, Michael	DB	5-10	190	30	Kent State
76	Millen, Alec	T	6-7	285	24	Georgia
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	205	27	Oregon
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	241	28	UCLA
	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	247	34	California
49	Popson, Ted	TE	6-4	250	28	Portland State
60	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	32	Miss. Valley St.
38	Russell, Damien	S	6-1	204	24	Virginia Tech
61	Sapolu, Jesse	C	6-4	278	33	Hawaii
88	Singleton, Nate	WR	5-11	190	26	Grambling
95	Smith, Artie	DE	6-4	303	24	Louisiana Tech
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DE	6-2	302	24	Kansas
64	Tamm, Ralph	G	6-4	280	28	West Chester
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	32	Delaware State
72	Thomas, Mark	DE	6-5	273	25	N.C. State
86	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	215	30	NW La
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	280	30	Auburn
32	Watters, Ricky	RB	6-1	212	25	Notre Dame
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus	P	6-1	210	27	Louisville
77	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-5	277	30	LSU
92	Wilson, Troy	DE	6-4	235	24	Pittsburg State
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	205	33	BYU

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Young, Bryant	DT/DE	6-3	276	Notre Dame
1	Floyd, William	RB	6-1	238	Florida State
2	Mitchell, Kevin	LB	6-1	260	Syracuse
2	Drakeford, Tyrone	CB	5-10	185	Virginia Tech
3	Brien, Doug	K	6-0	170	California
3	Fleming, Cory	WR	6-3	207	Tennessee
5	Peterson, Tony	LB	6-0	223	Notre Dame
6	Woodall, Lee	LB	6-3	200	West Chester

NFC west



JIM
EVERETT

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen, 117 points on 33 extra points and 28 field goals. . . 4th
RUSHING—Brown, 705 yards on 180 carries, 3.9 avg., 2 TDs. . . 10th
PASSING—Wilson, 221 of 388 attempts for 2,457 yards and 12 TDs. . . 10th
RECEIVING—Martin, 66 receptions for 950 yards, 14.4 avg., 3 TDs. . . T9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Atkins, 3 for 59 yards, 19.7 average. . . T5th
PUNTING—Barnhardt, 77 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 58 yards. . . 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Hughes, 37 for 503 yards, 13.6 avg., 2 TDs. . . 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hughes, 30 for 753 yards, 25.1 avg., 1 TD. . . 2nd
SACKS—Turnbull, 13.0 sacks. . . T1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At New England (N)
13 At Minnesota (N)
19 GREEN BAY (N)
25 DALLAS (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

		1993 SCORES
September	4 KANSAS CITY	—
	11 WASHINGTON	—
	18 At Tampa Bay	—
	25 At San Francisco	7-42
October	2 N.Y. GIANTS	14-24
	9 At Chicago	—
	16 SAN DIEGO	—
	23 L.A. RAMS	20-23
	30 OPEN DATE	—
November	6 At Minnesota	17-14
	13 ATLANTA	15-26
	20 At L.A. Raiders	—
	28 SAN FRANCISCO (N)	16-13
December	4 At L.A. Rams	37-6
	11 At Atlanta (N)	34-31
	19 DALLAS (N)	—
	24 At Denver	—

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The bottom dropped out of the Saints after a 5-0 start last year, age and injury suddenly putting a good team into a 3-8 free fall that left the whole franchise reeling. In a city accustomed to manic mood swings, fans quickly traded Super Bowl reservations for paper bags and made an easy transition from Greats to Aints. Only the steady hand of coach Jim Mora and an organization that doesn't panic was able to divert disaster.

"One of the things you have to look at in this business is whether you are competitive over a period of time," Mora said. "I think this organization has been. If you can stay competitive, then you are going to have your good years. We haven't had a bad year, where we've lost more games than we have won. Certainly we're not happy with this past season, but we're not ready to say we're in dire shape, because we're not."

Mora blasted fans for cheering an injury to quarterback Wade Wilson at the end of a four-game losing streak in the Superdome. Knowledgeable fans could plainly see the collapse was a team-wide effort. Wilson threw one interception when the team was 5-0 and 14 when it was 3-8, but the defense was no longer the dominant group it had been in recent playoff years. It couldn't stop the run, falling to

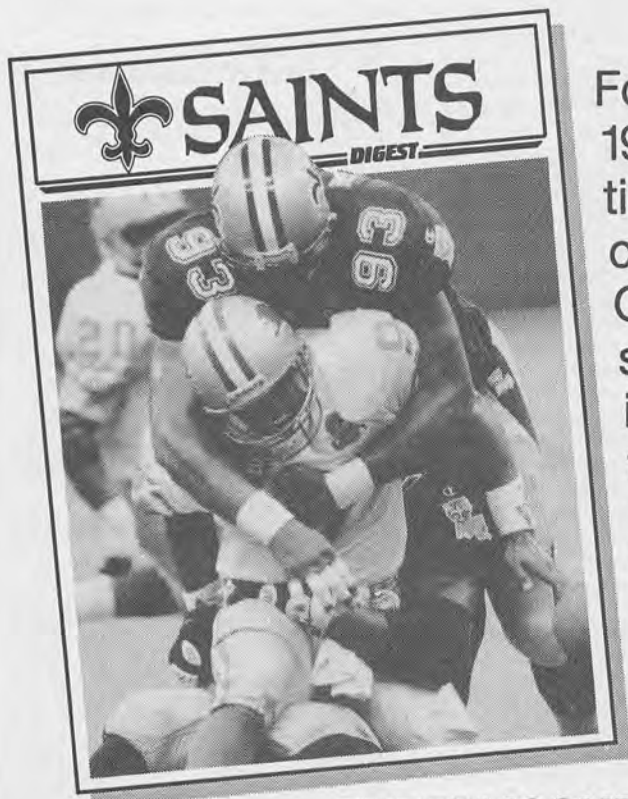
25th in the league. The once-proud unit gave up more big plays than it made, and then watched helplessly as opponents scored a league-high 10 touchdowns on returns when the defense wasn't even on the field.

The Saints started to plug holes by acquiring two NFC West players who made a living making big plays against them. In former Ram quarterback Jim Everett and former Falcon receiver Michael Haynes, the Saints have added two players who will not only improve their offense, but make things easier on their defense for at least four games a year.

Everett earned his share of criticism in Los Angeles, but the Saints see a 31-year-old big-armed talent who may only need a change of scenery. With the right supporting casts, Everett has enjoyed banner years. Mora's primary problem is to erase the old pregame speeches he used to preach about getting in Everett's face and disrupting his rhythm so he would get happy feet and become ineffective. Those were the old days. Wilson re-signed as a backup and Doug Nussmeier of Idaho was drafted in the fourth round to replace long-time project Mike Buck.

Haynes provides the deep threat that was perennially lacking in the offense. He averaged just 10.8 yards per catch in Atlanta's run-and-shoot, but the Saints remember the

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98-yarder he caught against them. He will enable Quinn Early to move to the other side and allow Eric Martin to work from the slot in three-receiver formations. Martin is 32 and still leads the team every year. Torrance Small, Marcus Dowdell, and rookie Derrell Mitchell will back up. Second-year tight end Irv Smith replaces the retired Hoby Brenner, with ex-49er Wesley Walls and Frank Wainright in reserve.

The Saints added second-rounder Mario Bates to a full stable of runners, led by second-year finds Derek Brown and Lorenzo Neal. Brown finished fourth in the outstanding rookie class of Jerome Bettis, Reggie Brooks, and Ron Moore. Former No. 1 pick Vaughn Dunbar is coming off knee surgery that wiped out his 1993. Brad Muster is trying to find his niche and Dalton Hilliard could remain an effective third-down back. Derrick Ned is another fullback candidate.

Willie Roaf, the sensational rookie tackle, will move from the right side to the left in the new blocking scheme, switching with Richard Cooper. Left guard Chris Port also will switch

The defense was simply run down. Frank Warren, 35, Jim Wilks, 36, and Sam Mills, 35, all suffered from injuries. Rickey Jackson was effective, but he's 36. Vaughan Johnson slipped at 31. The deterioration didn't stop up front. Safety Brett Maxie suffered his second major knee injury at 31. Losing free safety Gene Atkins to Miami doesn't help the rebuilding process. The Saints began by taking Louisville end Joe Johnson in the first round. If nothing else, Johnson is young, a junior who will need to develop fast if the Saints expect him to contribute immediately. Left end Wayne Martin hopes to return to 1992 form if he can get the support around him. Nose tackle Wilks was released without the presence of a clear heir apparent. Veterans Les Miller and Robert Goff are possibilities, but they are more suited to positions on the outside. Miller finished as the right end in Warren's absence and Warren's future is uncertain following a foot injury. The Saints added Herman Carroll in the fifth round and still have second-year man Ronnie Dixon and veteran Karl Dunbar as backups who could contend for playing time in an area of obvious need.

Renaldo Turnbull replaced Pat Swilling at linebacker a year ago and made the Pro Bowl by tying Reggie White for the NFC lead in sacks with 13. Like his team, Turnbull was better early in the season and finished up injured. Joel Smeenge is a capable backup who has earned more playing time. Jackson is remarkable on the other side. He had 11½ sacks and is compiling Hall of Fame credentials, outlasting Lawrence Taylor and all the other great linebackers from the class of '81. Reggie Freeman is a young outside backer who will push. Inside, Mills and Johnson will get competition from James Williams and third-round draft choice Winfred Tubbs.

The secondary could line up with four new starters. Left corner Vince Buck is expected to move to free safety to replace Atkins. Othello Henderson impressed coaches as a rookie thrust into strong safety. Reggie Jones is coming off an injury and will replace Buck at left corner. If Toi Cook doesn't return at right corner, the job will be up for grabs between Jim-

my Spencer and Israel Byrd, with Tyrone Legette and kick-return specialist Tyrone Hughes as possibilities. The inside backup spots depend on the health of Maxie and the development of Sean Lumpkin.

Hughes led the league in punt returns and was second in kickoff returns as a rookie in a phenomenal performance. He returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns. Tommy Barnhardt had 26 punts inside the 20 and Morten Andersen was just 12 of 19 outside 40 yards and is looking to bounce back.

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	34	Michigan St.
78	Backes, Tom	G	6-4	273	26	Oklahoma
6	Bamhardt, Tommy	P	6-2	207	31	North Carolina
59	Bowden, Andre	LB	6-3	240	26	Fayetteville St.
24	Brown, Derek	RB	5-9	186	23	Nebraska
16	Buck, Mike	DB	6-3	227	27	Maine
26	Buck, Vince	CB	6-0	196	26	Central St.
45	Byrd, Israel	CB	5-11	184	23	Utah St.
40	Coghill, George	S	6-2	198	24	Wake Forest
41	Cook, Toi	CB	5-11	188	30	Stanford
19	Cooper, Hunkie	WR	5-8	185	25	UNLV
71	Cooper, Richard	T	6-5	290	30	Tennessee
95	Dixon, Ronnie	NT	6-2	292	23	Cincinnati
72	Dombrowski, Jim	OL	6-5	300	31	Virginia
80	Dowdell, Marcus	WR	5-10	179	24	Tennessee St.
63	Dunbar, Karl	DE	6-4	275	27	LSU
32	Dunbar, Vaughn	RB	5-10	204	26	Indiana
89	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	29	Iowa
17	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	31	Purdue
55	Freeman, Reggie	LB	6-1	233	24	Florida St.
66	Garten, Joe	OL	6-2	290	26	Colorado
91	Goff, Robert	DL	6-3	270	29	Auburn
61	Haynes, Michael	WR	6-0	184	29	Northern Arizona
20	Henderson, Othello	S	6-0	192	22	UCLA
62	Hilgenberg, Jay	OL	6-3	270	35	Iowa
61	Hilgenberg, Joel	OL	6-2	252	32	Iowa
21	Hilliard, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	30	LSU
33	Hughes, Tyrone	CB	5-9	175	24	Nebraska
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	36	Pittsburgh
98	Jeffcoat, Jerold	NT	6-2	285	25	Temple
53	Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6-3	240	32	N.C. State
27	Jones, Reginald	CB	6-1	202	25	Memphis St.
43	Legette, Tyrone	CB	5-9	177	24	Nebraska
46	Lumpkin, Sean	S	6-0	206	24	Minnesota
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	32	LSU
93	Martin, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	29	Arkansas
39	Maxie, Brett	S	6-2	194	32	Texas Southern
96	Mayfield, Corey	NT	6-3	290	24	Oklahoma
86	McCleskey, J.J.	WR	5-7	177	24	Tennessee
58	Milburn, Darryl	LB	6-3	245	26	Grambling St.
69	Miller, Les	DL	6-7	285	29	Fl. Hays St.
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	35	Montclair St.
22	Muster, Brad	FB	6-4	235	29	Stanford
23	Neal, Lorenzo	FB	5-11	240	24	Fresno St.
36	Ned, Derrick	FB	6-1	210	25	Grambling St.
79	Nelson, Royce	G	6-4	315	24	Nicholls St.
35	Pahukoa, Shane	S	6-2	202	24	Washington
70	Port, Chris	OL	6-5	295	27	Duke
64	Ricketts, Tom	G	6-5	305	29	Pittsburgh
77	Roaf, William	T	6-5	300	24	Louisiana Tech
75	Rollins, Baron	G	6-4	335	24	Louisiana Tech
83	Small, Torrance	WR	6-3	201	24	Alcorn St.
99	Smeenge, Joel	LB	6-5	250	26	W. Michigan
82	Smith, Irv	TE	6-3	246	23	Notre Dame
37	Spencer, Jimmy	CB	5-9	180	25	Florida
29	Taylor, Keith	S	5-11	206	30	Illinois
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	LB	6-4	250	28	West Virginia
88	Turner, Floyd	WR	5-11	188	28	Northwestern La.
Uhlenhake, Jeff		C	6-3	284	28	Ohio State
87	Wainright, Frank	TE	6-3	245	27	N. Colorado
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	290	35	Auburn
90	Williams, James	LB	6-0	230	26	Mississippi St.
65	Williams, Willie	T	6-6	295	27	LSU
18	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	206	35	East Texas St.
92	Winston, DeMond	LB	6-2	239	26	Vanderbilt

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Johnson, Joe	DE	6-4	280	Louisville
2	Bates, Mario	RB	6-0	217	Arizona State
3	Tubbs, Winfred	LB	6-5	242	Texas
4	Nussmeier, Doug	QB	6-4	210	Idaho
5	Carroll, Herman	DE	6-4	261	Mississippi St.
5	Novitsky, Craig	G	6-5	295	UCLA
6	Mitchell, Derrell	WR	5-9	185	Texas Tech
7	Lundberg, Lance	OT	6-4	300	Nebraska



SAM MILLS

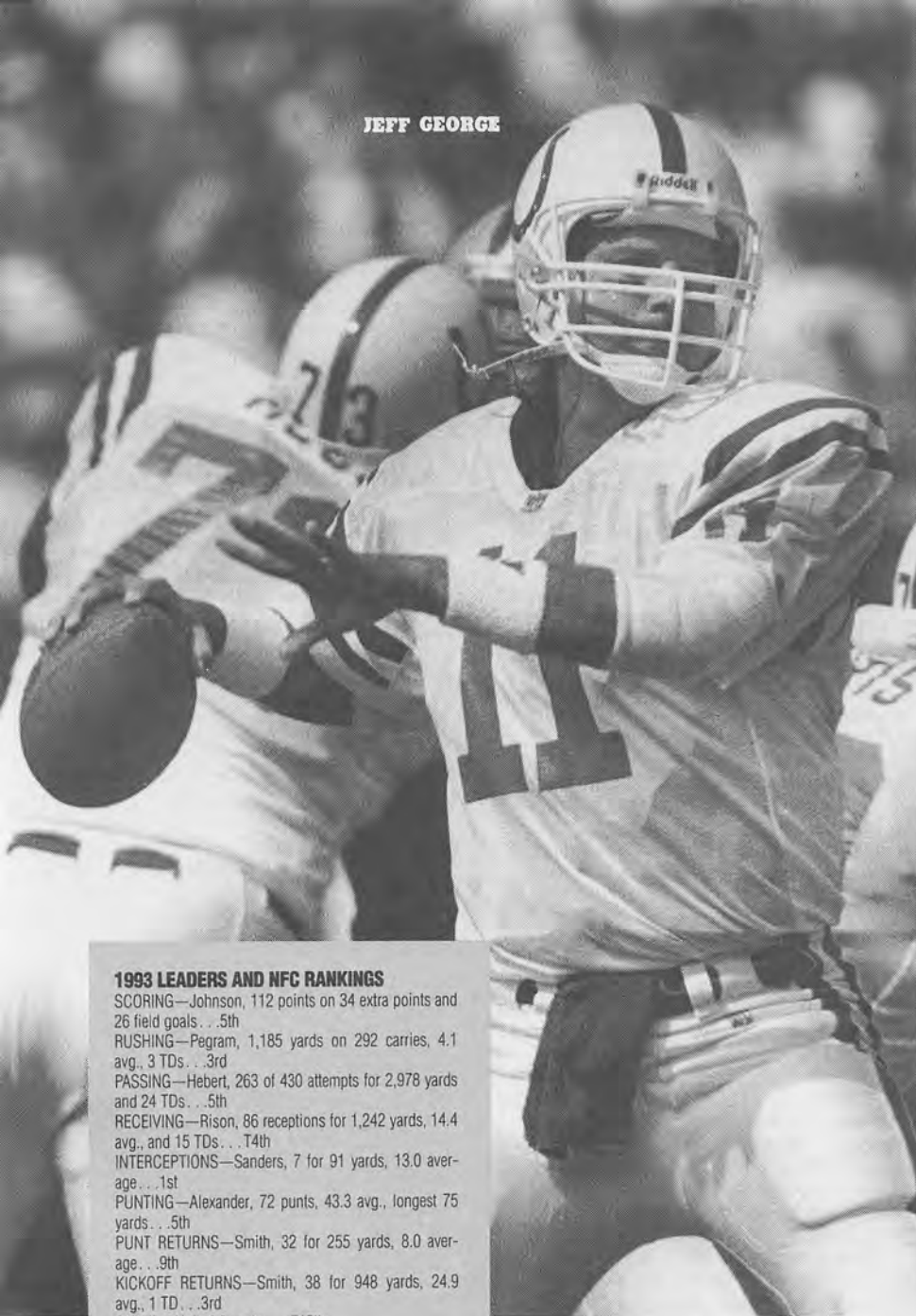


MICHAEL HAYNES

to the right to replace the departed Derek Kennard (Cowboys), with Jim Dombrowski returning to left guard. The Saints signed Jeff Uhlenhake (Dolphins) to replace Joel Hilgenberg at center. Backup help is a problem, with new signees Tom Ricketts and Willie Williams joined by rookies Craig Novitsky and Lance Lundberg.

Uncharacteristically, the Saints' defense is unsettled. "In the past, because we were such a dominant defensive team, we were able to win games on defense with an offense that's never been really special," Mora said. "The previous two years, we were one of the top two or three defensive teams in the NFL. Last year, we fell off. We were not as strong up front. We did not play the run as well on a consistent basis."

JEFF GEORGE



1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 112 points on 34 extra points and 26 field goals... 5th
 RUSHING—Pegram, 1,185 yards on 292 carries, 4.1 avg., 3 TDs... 3rd
 PASSING—Hebert, 263 of 430 attempts for 2,978 yards and 24 TDs... 5th
 RECEIVING—Rison, 86 receptions for 1,242 yards, 14.4 avg., and 15 TDs... 14th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Sanders, 7 for 91 yards, 13.0 average... 1st
 PUNTING—Alexander, 72 punts, 43.3 avg., longest 75 yards... 5th
 PUNT RETURNS—Smith, 32 for 255 yards, 8.0 average... 9th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Smith, 38 for 948 yards, 24.9 avg., 1 TD... 3rd
 SACKS—Holt, 6.5 sacks... 112th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	30	San Diego at Canton, OH
August	6	At DENVER (N)
	12	BUFFALO (N)
	19	At Cleveland (N)
	26	PHILADELPHIA (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

September	4	At Detroit	13-30
	11	L.A. RAMS	30-24
	18	KANSAS CITY (N)	—
	25	At Washington	17-30
October	2	At L.A. Rams	13-0
	9	TAMPA BAY	24-31
	16	SAN FRANCISCO	27-24
	23	At L.A. Raiders	—
	30	OPEN DATE	—
November	6	SAN DIEGO	27-15
	13	At New Orleans	—
	20	At Denver	—
	27	PHILADELPHIA	—
December	4	At San Francisco	30-37
	11	NEW ORLEANS (N)	31-34
	18	Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI	—
	24	ARIZONA	10-27

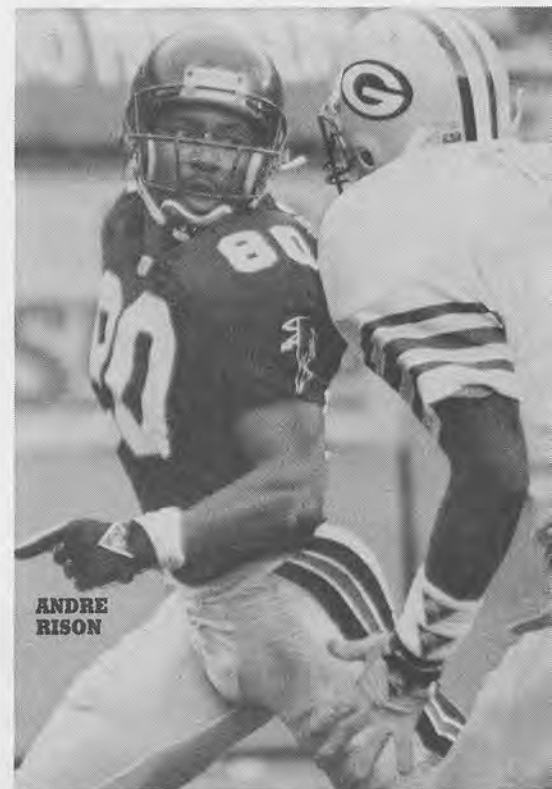
ATLANTA FALCONS

What's new in Atlanta is just about everything. But starting over is nothing new. Falcon fans are accustomed to coaching changes and promises that come along with about the same regularity as presidential elections. What's new this time is the excitement appears grounded in more than fluff and puff. June Jones replaced Jerry Glanville as coach, retaining the entertaining run-and-shoot offense without the sideline show. Among the players, offensive coordinator Jones was more popular in Atlanta than Glanville and decidedly less flamboyant. "I promise the people of Atlanta that you'll be proud of me when my tenure here is long gone, and I'll do everything I can to build a championship team," Jones said.

Jones and player personnel director Ken Herock quickly set about their business as if there were no tomorrows. The Smith family ownership has shown extraordinary patience over the years, but there is increasing urgen-

cy. The Falcons no longer want to build for any more futures. To that end, they traded away this year's No. 1 draft choice for Indianapolis quarterback Jeff George. Then they traded away next year's No. 1 draft choice for Minnesota pass rusher Chris Doleman. The passer and the pass rusher are expected to take the Falcons to another level, meaning the playoffs that Glanville made in 1992 but missed in '93 when the Falcons lost their last three games to lowly Washington, Cincinnati, and Phoenix.

Adding George and Doleman turned out to be just the start. Subtraction became an intriguing possibility when the Falcons rescinded the transition tag on superstar cornerback Deion Sanders, freeing the full-time baseball player to sign anywhere in the NFL without a right of first refusal by the Falcons. While the move didn't necessarily mean the end of Deion's two-sport career in Atlanta, it did mean the Falcons may no longer be willing to put so much stock in part-time help. While Sanders is spectacular, the Falcons no longer need ticket-selling gimmicks. They need commitments. Before Sanders arrived last fall, the Falcons were 0-5. After he showed up and led the NFC in interceptions, they won six of the next eight to get into the playoff hunt. Sanders'



ANDRE
RISON

baseball contract will force him to miss the first five games again this year, and under the salary cap, the Falcons no longer want to pay him \$2 million for 11 games.

In George, the Falcons get the player they would have drafted in 1990 had the Colts not offered Chris Hinton, Andre Rison, and two No. 1 draft choices and more for his rights. After wearing out his welcome in his hometown, George now has Rison and a coach convinced he can make a run-and-shoot star out of him. Bobby Hebert threw 24 touchdown passes last year under Jones, making Chris Miller (Rams) expendable. But after elbow surgery put his future in jeopardy, Hebert was

willing to take a pay cut and stick around to back up George. It gives Jones an unusual 1-2 punch, with rookie Perry Klein on hand to watch. George's arm never has been questioned, and Jones thinks he is made for his quick-read, wing-it attack.

Trouble is, Rison looks like the only target left in a system that requires numbers. The Falcons allowed deep threat Michael Haynes to get away to New Orleans, then traded emerging star Mike Pritchard to Denver to recoup the 1995 No. 1 lost in the Doleman deal. That forced Jones to draft Rice quarterback Bert Emanuel in the second round and hope he can convert to a wide receiver, and Florida's Harrison Houston in the fifth round to give Jason Phillips and David Mims competition. Jones will be scanning the waiver wire all summer. Maybe Drew Hill will come out of retirement. Then there is always Sanders, who caught six passes last year. When the Falcons use a tight end, it probably will be Mitch Lyons.

The development of Erric Pegrum gives George a big-time running back for the first time in his career. Pegrum was fourth in the league in rushing last year behind the more familiar names of Emmitt Smith, Jerome Bettis, and Thurman Thomas. The former sixth-rounder keeps former No. 1 pick Tony Smith

on the bench and ran another erstwhile No. 1, Steve Broussard, out of town.

The Falcons lost offensive lineman Chris Hinton (Vikings), so they are forced to scramble up front. They signed Mike Zandofsky (Chargers) and retained Roman Fortin, who will compete either at Hinton's right-guard spot or at center with Jamie Dukes. Mike Kenn is back for another fling at left tackle at age 38, playing beside 335-pound second-year left guard Lincoln Kennedy. If Kennedy and third-year right tackle Bob Whitfield become the superstars that their draft status promised, the Falcons won't have to worry about losing the versatile Hinton. Keith Alex and Mike Ruether are backups and third-round guard Alai Kalanuivalu will get the public address announcer in early shape.

"I have great confidence in my abilities on the offensive side of the football," Jones said. "The thing that we have to do is get better on the other side."

To start, the defense hired Jim Bates from Cleveland as coordinator. He will install a 4-2-5 alignment, using a "rover" linebacker/defensive back. The key remains the front, where Doleman will join last year's free-agent pickup from the 49ers, Pierce Holt, to give the Falcons their most accomplished pass-rushing tandem in years. Holt played through nagging injuries last season and the sight of Doleman should be enough to cure whatever ails him. Moe Gardner is an active counterpart to Holt at tackle, and Jumpy Geathers still can apply pressure up the middle in spurts. The left end opposite Doleman remains a question mark, with linebacker-type Chuck Smith and Mel Agee sharing the job. Lester Archambeau, who finished at right end, may shift to left.

Middle linebacker Jessie Tuggle remains a tackling machine, but the Falcons are weak at linebacker, a condition which may suit Bates's style. The athletic Ron George could become the rover if third-round draft pick Anthony Phillips or strong safety Roger Harper doesn't beat him to it. Backups Alton Montgomery and Howard Dinkins are also in the running. The more conventional linebacker job will be handled by veteran Jesse Solomon or Ken Tippins.

The Falcons signed Pittsburgh cornerback D. J. Johnson and Kansas City corner/safety Kevin Ross in anticipation of secondary changes with or without Sanders. Johnson will

play left corner with Vinnie Clark or Darnell Walker on the right side until (and if) Sanders shows. That leaves the middle to strong safety Harper and free safety Ross, with Scott Case and Tracey Eaton in reserve. Harper was outstanding as a rookie and could quickly become a household name.

Norm Johnson missed one field goal all year and seems to be getting better with age. Tony Smith was among the league's best combination return men. Punter Harold Alexander is good. Elbert Shelley is a great special-teams' head-hunter the Falcons hope they can keep in the new cap system.



CHRIS DOLEMAN



ERRIC PEGRUM

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
41	Addison, Bryan	S	6-0	200	24	Hawaii
98	Age, Louis	T	6-7	360	24	SW Louisiana
68	Agee, Mel	DL	6-5	298	26	Illinois
62	Alex, Keith	G	6-4	307	25	Texas A&M
5	Alexander, Harold	P	6-2	224	24	Appalachian State
92	Archambeau, Lester	DE	6-5	275	27	Stanford
25	Case, Scott	S	6-1	188	32	Oklahoma
27	Clark, Vinnie	CB	6-0	194	25	Ohio State
56	Conner, Darion	LB	6-2	245	27	Jackson State
51	Dinkins, Howard	LB	6-1	230	25	Florida State
	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	275	33	Pittsburgh
42	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-1	194	32	Colorado
64	Dukes, Jamie	C	6-1	292	30	Florida State
63	Earle, John	G	6-4	290	25	Western Illinois
32	Eaton, Tracey	S	6-1	195	29	Portland State
65	Fortin, Roman	OL	6-5	295	27	San Diego St.
14	Gagliano, Bob	DB	6-3	205	36	Utah State
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6-5	270	31	Notre Dame
67	Gardner, Moe	NT	6-2	261	26	Illinois
97	Geathers, Jumpy	DT	6-7	290	34	Wichita State
1	George, Jeff	QB	6-4	218	27	Illinois
50	George, Ron	LB	6-2	225	24	Stanford
71	Goldberg, Bill	DT	6-2	266	25	Georgia
53	Gordon, Dwayne	LB	6-1	231	25	New Hampshire
47	Harper, Roger	S	6-2	223	24	Ohio State
29	Hatch, Lawrence	CB	5-11	194	23	Florida
74	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	24	NW Louisiana
74	Heidenreich, Jon	G	6-5	285	25	NE Louisiana
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	172	38	Georgia Tech
95	Holt, Pierce	DL	6-4	275	32	Angelo State
85	Jones, Tony	WR	5-7	145	29	Texas
44	Johnson, D.J.	CB	6-0	183	28	Kentucky
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	203	34	UCLA
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	286	38	Michigan
66	Kennedy, Lincoln	OL	6-6	335	23	Washington
88	Le Bel, Harper	TE	6-4	248	31	Colo. State
73	Logan, Ernie	DE	6-3	285	26	East Carolina
4	Lowery, Tim	RB	5-11	247	24	Clark
86	Lyons, Mitch	TE	6-4	255	24	Michigan State
	Mathis, Terance	WR	5-10	170	26	New Mexico
34	Mims, David	WR	5-8	191	24	Baylor
22	Montgomery, Alton	S	6-0	202	26	Houston
91	Paull, Tim	LB	6-0	232	26	Florida
33	Pegrum, Erric	RB	5-9	188	25	N. Texas State
82	Phillips, Jason	WR	5-7	166	28	Houston
96	Richardson, Huey	DE	6-4	243	26	Florida
80	Rison, Andre	WR	6-1	188	27	Michigan State
36	Ross, Kevin	S	5-9	182	32	Temple
55	Ruether, Mike	G/C	6-4	286	32	Texas
93	Sally, Lamar	DE	6-5	281	24	Central Michigan
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	178	32	SW Texas State
37	Shelley, Elbert	CB	5-11	185	30	Arkansas St.
90	Smith, Chuck	LB/DE	6-2	254	25	Tennessee
28	Smith, Tony	RB	6-1	224	24	Southern Miss.
54	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	240	31	Florida State
89	Spencer, Darryl	WR	5-8	172	24	Miami
30	Stinson, Lemuel	CB	5-9	180	28	Texas Tech
52	Tippins, Ken	LB	6-1	235	28	Mid. Tenn. St.
61	Tobeck, Robbie	C	6-4	275	24	Washington State
11	Tolliver, Billy Joe	QB	6-1	218	28	Texas Tech
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5-11	230	29	Valdosta State
45	Walker, Darnell	CB	5-8	164	24	Oklahoma
40	Wallace, Anthony	RB	6-0	191	25	California
46	Washington, Charles	S	6-1	217	28	Cameron
70	Whitfield, Bob	T	6-5	308	23	Stanford
94	Wilkins, David	DE/LB	6-4	240	25	Eastern Kentucky
72	Zandofsky, Mike	OL	6-2	305	29	Washington

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Emanuel, Bert	WR	5-10	176	Rice
3	Phillips, Anthony	DB	6-1	217	Texas A&M-Kingsville
3	Kalanuivalu, Alai	G	6-3	300	Oregon State
4	Klein, Perry	QB	6-2	218	C.W. Post
4	Davis, Mitch	LB	6-3	240	Georgia
5	Houston, Harrison	WR	5-9	174	Florida
7	Anderson, Jamal	RB	5-10	246	Utah

CHRIS MILLER

In his place, the Rams were happy to land Atlanta's Chris Miller. Coming off two serious knee surgeries, Miller nevertheless impressed the Rams to such an extent that they ignored a quarterback in the draft, confident that the shaky knee will hold up once Miller is required to do more than work out in shorts. It is a gamble the Falcons weren't willing to take. Healthy, Miller can throw with the best of them, but two anterior cruciate ligament operations on his left knee have reduced his playing to 10 starts in two years. That's why the Rams are intent on keeping a veteran with Rubley in case Miller doesn't make it. Starting over with

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
83	Anderson, Willie	WR	6-0	172	29	UCLA
77	Ashmore, Darryl	T	6-7	300	25	Northwestern
28	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-9	176	26	Miami
71	Beilin, Chuck	G	6-2	312	24	Wisconsin
36	Bettis, Jerome	RB	5-11	243	22	Notre Dame
96	Boutte, Marc	DT	6-4	298	25	LSU
21	Boykin, Deral	S	5-11	196	24	Louisville
49	Brasher, Bob	TE	6-5	244	24	Arizona State
61	Brostek, Bern	C	6-3	300	28	Washington
89	Buchanan, Richard	WR	5-10	178	25	Northwestern
51	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	275	38	Washington
54	Collins, Brett	LB	6-1	234	26	Washington
56	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	235	30	Penn State
29	Davis, Dexter	CB	5-10	185	24	Clemson
84	Drayton, Troy	TE	6-3	255	24	Penn State
93	Esters, Jeff	DT	6-4	285	25	Pittsburgh
68	Fichtel, Brad	C	6-2	285	24	Eastern Illinois
43	Gary, Cleveland	RB	6-0	226	28	Miami
90	Gilbert, Sean	DT	6-4	315	24	Pittsburgh
79	Goeas, Leo	OL	6-4	292	28	Hawaii
42	Griffin, Courtney	CB	5-10	180	28	Fresno State
30	Griffith, Howard	RB	6-0	226	27	Illinois
24	Henderson, Wymon	CB	5-10	188	33	UNLV
23	Hicks, Clifford	DB	5-10	187	30	Oregon
57	Homco, Thomas	LB	6-0	245	24	Northwestern
31	Israel, Steve	CB	5-11	186	25	Pittsburgh
86	Jones, Ernie	WR	6-0	200	30	Indiana
	Jones, Jimmie	DT	6-4	276	28	Miami
18	Jones, Jeff	WR	5-10	185	24	California
81	Kinchen, Todd	WR	6-0	187	25	Louisiana State
88	LaChapelle, Sean	WR	6-3	205	24	UCLA
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	210	32	Towson State
38	Lang, David	RB	5-11	213	26	Northern Arizona
34	Lester, Tim	RB	5-9	215	26	Eastern Kentucky
80	Lewis, Nate	WR	5-11	198	28	Oregon Tech
64	Loneker, Keith	G	6-3	330	23	Kansas
41	Lyght, Todd	CB	6-0	186	25	Notre Dame
53	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	241	34	Auburn
8	Martin, Jamie	QB	6-2	215	24	Weber State
82	McNeal, Travis	TE	6-3	244	27	UT-Chattanooga
13	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	212	29	Oregon
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	285	32	Wis.-LaCrosse
26	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	199	29	Oregon
69	Pahukoa, Jeff	OL	6-2	298	25	Washington
58	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	230	26	UCLA
22	Pope, Marquez	DB	5-10	193	24	Fresno State
27	Price, Mitchell	CB	5-9	181	27	Tulane
72	Robbins, Kevin	T	6-4	286	27	Michigan State
97	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	262	31	Auburn
92	Rocker, David	DT	6-4	267	25	Auburn
59	Rolling, Henry	LB	6-2	225	29	Nevada
12	Rubley, T.J.	QB	6-3	205	26	Tulsa
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	285	40	Jackson State
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	274	30	Georgia Southern
99	Tanuvasa, Maa	DT	6-2	277	24	Hawaii
37	Terrell, Pat	S	6-0	195	26	Notre Dame
55	White, Leon	LB	6-3	242	31	BYU
44	White, Russell	RB	5-11	216	24	California
25	Wilson, David	S	5-10	192	24	California
76	Young, Robert	DE	6-6	273	25	Mississippi State
10	Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	34	Nevada

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Gandy, Wayne	OT	6-4	289	Auburn
2	Bruce, Isaac	WR	5-11	178	Memphis State
2	Wright, Toby	DB	5-11	203	Nebraska
2	Ottis, Brad	DT	6-4	271	Wayne State
3	Lyle, Keith	DB	6-2	204	Virginia
3	Bostic, James	RB	6-0	224	Auburn
4	Jones, Ernest	LB	6-2	230	Oregon
4	Brantley, Chris	WR	5-11	180	Rutgers
6	Brady, Rickey	TE	6-4	243	Oklahoma
6	Edwards, Ronald	OT	6-5	285	North Carolina A&T

LOS ANGELES RAMS

By himself, running back Jerome Bettis makes the Rams worth watching. They averaged only 13.8 points a game a year ago, the fewest in the NFC. By himself, defensive tackle Sean Gilbert makes the Rams worth watching. They allowed 22.9 points per game, the third-most in the NFL. They averaged 45,401 fans in Anaheim, their lowest attendance since they moved from the Coliseum in 1980. They might be Anaheim's lame ducks, football's counterpart to hockey's Mighty Ducks. But Bettis and Gilbert make them interesting. Trouble is, they are pretty much by themselves.

Coach Chuck Knox is trying to gather talent around them as fast as he can because he knows running backs and defensive linemen of their caliber don't arrive every year. Dallas is lucky that Emmitt Smith had Troy Aikman at quarterback. Ask Walter Payton whether he needed a quarterback. Ask Barry Sanders. The Rams traded quarterback Jim Everett to New Orleans after a disappointing season in which he was benched in favor of the totally untested T.J. Rubley. Everett criticized Knox's offense, buying himself a one-way ticket out.

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas, 71 points on 23 extra points and 16 field goals. . . 15th
RUSHING—Bettis, 1,429 yards on 294 carries, 4.9 avg., 7 TDs. . . 2nd
PASSING—Everett, 135 of 274 attempts for 1,652 yards and 8 TDs. . . 13th
RECEIVING—Ellard, 61 receptions for 945 yards, 15.5 avg., 2 TDs. . . T13th
INTERCEPTIONS—Bailey, 2 for 41 yards, 20.5 average. . . T6th
PUNTING—Landeta, 75 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 66 yards. . . 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Buchanan, 8 for 41 yards, 5.1 average. . . unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Boykin, 13 for 216 yards, 16.6 average. . . unranked
SACKS—Gilbert, 10.5 sacks. . . T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 Green Bay at Madison, WI
13 NEW ENGLAND (N)
20 L.A. RAIDERS (N)
25 At San Diego (N)

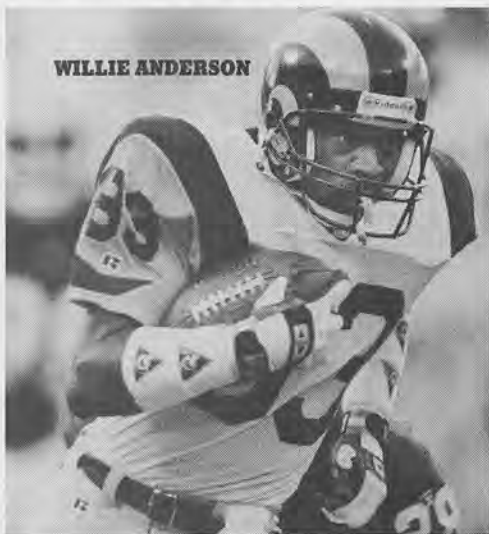
1994 SCHEDULE

September 4 ARIZONA.....10-38
11 At Atlanta.....24-30
18 SAN FRANCISCO.....10-35
25 At Kansas City.....—
October 2 ATLANTA.....0-13
9 At Green Bay.....6-36
16 N.Y. GIANTS.....10-20
23 At New Orleans.....23-20
30 OPEN DATE.....—
November 6 DENVER.....—
13 L.A. RAIDERS.....—
20 At San Francisco (N).....17-40
27 At San Diego.....—
December 4 NEW ORLEANS.....6-37
11 At Tampa Bay.....—
18 At Chicago.....20-6
24 WASHINGTON.....10-6

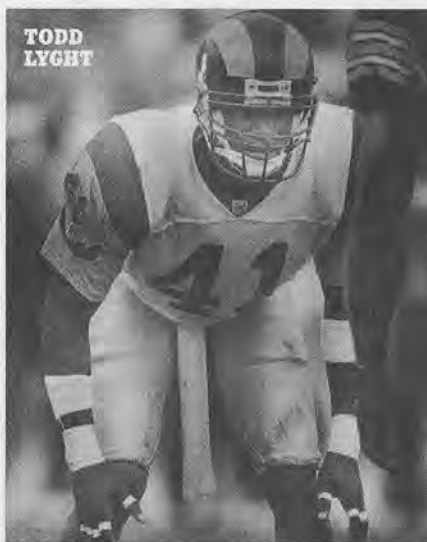
1993 SCORES

young Trent Dilfer didn't interest Knox, who is forced to cover losses at receiver and changes in the offensive line just to stay even.

Top receiver Henry Ellard left for the Redskins. Aging at 33, Ellard nevertheless was second only to the Dolphins' Irving Fryar in yards per catch for receivers with at least 60 receptions. The Rams expect to replace him with rookies Isaac Bruce and Chris Brantley, second and fourth-round draft choices, respectively. Willie "Flipper" Anderson must take up the slack and become Miller's go-to



WILLIE ANDERSON

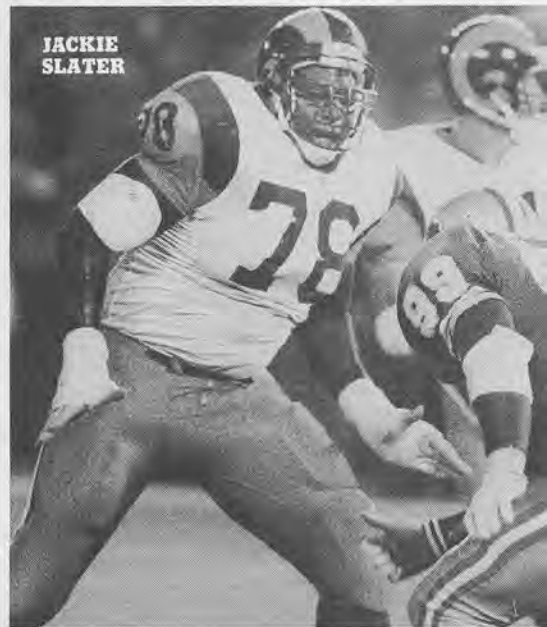


TODD
LYGHT

guy. Only 29, Anderson hasn't been the same receiver since his second 1,000-yard performance in 1990. He still holds the NFL record for 336 yards in one game, set in 1989, but he settled for just 552 yards all last year and a career-low 14.9-yard average. The Rams traded for Nate Lewis (Chargers) and welcome the return of Todd Kinchen from a knee injury. They also have Sean LaChapelle, ex-Cardinal Ernie Jones, Richard Buchanan, and Germaine Ross among the many candidates to come through at a crucial position. They

lost tight end Pat Carter to the Oilers and hope last year's second-rounder, Troy Drayton, is ready to step in. If not, they have Travis McNeal and they drafted Rickey Brady in the sixth round.

Bettis was sensational as a rookie, chasing Smith for the rushing championship despite a similarly slow start. Knox simply didn't recog-



JACKIE
SLATER



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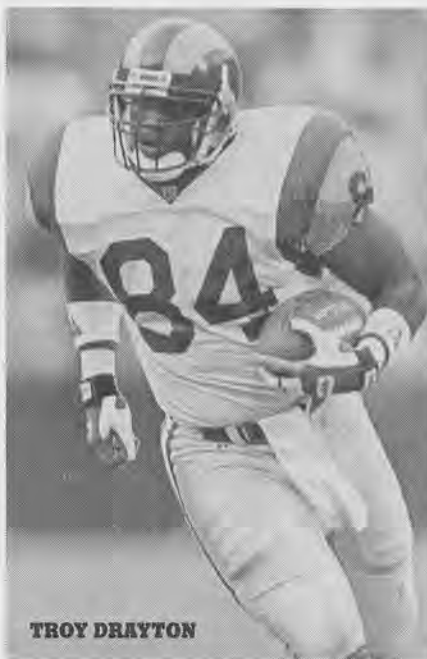
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nize how good Bettis was at first. By the end of the year, the Rams revolved around him and he was carrying his 243 pounds on amazingly effective sweeps as well as dashes up the middle. With 5-9, 215-pound Tim Lester blocking for the much bigger Bettis, the Rams looked funny, but they also looked over their shoulder. Bettis invited Lester as a guest to the Pro Bowl. The Rams are deep at running back, providing Miller a luxury he didn't have in Atlanta. Russell White and David Lang are quality backups. Knox selected big James Bostic in the third round and would like Cleveland Gary to stick around as insurance.

The Rams drafted Bostic's Auburn teammate Wayne Gandy and anointed him left tackle. They waived starter Irv Eatman to make certain there was no misunderstanding. It's a major risk to protect Miller's fragile knee with a rookie, but a tribute to Gandy. Right tackle Jackie Slater is back for his 19th season with the Rams. At age 40, the man who blocked for Walter Payton in college may serve more as a tutor for Darryl Ashmore than a player, but he will be ready. Keith Loneker and Chuck Belin should push former Pro Bowl left guard Tom Newberry for a starting job. The center is Bern Brostek, backed by Blair Bush and Brad Fichtel. Right guard Leo Goeas can also back up at tackle. Jef Pahuoa and draftee Ron Edwards are reserves.

The Rams are trying to improve on their No. 24 defense and may have the front to do it, especially if Bettis controls the ball the way Knox likes. They added Dallas defensive tack-



TROY DRAYTON

le Jimmie Jones to push Marc Boutte at the spot alongside superstar Gilbert. An entire defense can be built around Gilbert just the way an offense can be built around Bettis. Right tackle Gilbert had 10½ sacks and right end Fred Stokes had 9½. The rest of the team had 15, of which left end Robert Young had

seven in four games before going down with a knee injury, so his return is anticipated with hope. Gerald Robinson is the backup end after the Rams lost Tony Woods to the Redskins. David Rocker and second-round draft pick Brad Otis also figure.

At linebacker, Roman Phifer on the right side is pushing for Pro Bowl votes. Knox hopes Shane Conlan can stay healthy in the middle. Henry Rolling is the left linebacker, although Ernest Jones is a third-round draft choice who should help. Chris Martin, Thomas Homco, Leon White, and Brett Collins are reserves who could earn playing time in an area that is not that strong.

In the backfield, the Rams lost cornerback Darryl Henley to the law and strong safety Michael Stewart to the Dolphins, but replaced them by trading for Marquez Pope (Chargers) and signing Cliff Hicks (Jets). Former No. 1 draftee Todd Lyght returns from an injury to reclaim the left corner, where he hopes to fulfill his potential. Steve Israel is the other corner, with Pope, Hicks, Robert Bailey, Mitchell Price, Dexter Davis, and Courtney Griffin around to press the starters. Anthony Newman is the starting free safety, with Pat Terrell, Deral Boykin, Pope, Hicks, and rookies Keith Lyle and Toby Wright vying for Stewart's job.

Tony Zendejas was the best kicker in the league at over 50 yards, hitting six of a league-high eight attempts. He is hoping to get closer this year. Sean Landeta is the punter, with rookie receiver Brantley and veteran Lewis penciled in as return men.

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NFC central

BRETT FAVRE

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Jacke, 128 points on 35 extra points and 31 field goals. . . 2nd
RUSHING—Thompson, 654 yards on 169 carries, 3.9 avg., 3 TDs. . . 12th
PASSING—Favre, 318 of 522 attempts for 3,303 yards and 19 TDs. . . 8th
RECEIVING—Sharpe, 112 receptions for 1,274 yards, 11.4 avg., 11 TDs. . . 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Butler, 6 for 131 yards, 21.8 average. . . T2nd
PUNTING—Wagner, 74 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 60 yards. . . 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Prior, 17 for 194 yards, 11.4 average. . . unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brooks, 23 for 611 yards, 26.6 avg., 1 TD. . . 1st
SACKS—White, 13.0 sacks. . . T1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 L.A. RAMS at Madison, WI.
13 MIAMI at Milwaukee, WI
19 At New Orleans (N)
26 NEW ENGLAND (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	MINNESOTA	17-21
	11	MIAMI at Milwaukee, WI	—
	18	At Philadelphia	17-20
	25	TAMPA BAY	13-10
October	2	At New England	—
	9	L.A. RAMS	36-6
	16	OPEN DATE	—
	20	At Minnesota (N)	13-15
	31	At Chicago (N)	17-30
November	6	DETROIT at Milwaukee, WI	26-17
	13	N.Y. JETS	—
	20	At Buffalo	—
	24	At Dallas	14-36
December	4	At Detroit	20-30
	11	CHICAGO	17-3
	18	ATLANTA at Milwaukee, WI	—
	24	At Tampa Bay	37-14

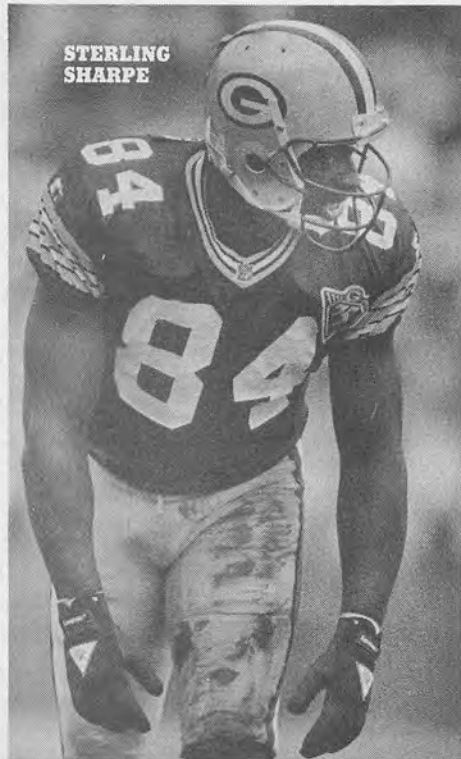
GREEN BAY PACKERS

The Packers are approaching the hump, desperately trying to position themselves to get over it. Two years ago, they missed the playoffs with a loss in their final game. Last year, they missed winning the NFC Central title with a loss in their final game. Once in the playoffs, they extracted a measure of revenge by beating the Lions on their last offensive play of the game. Then they turned into road kill for the Cowboys in the second round.

Respectability thus carries the burden of expectation. If the Packers don't win a division pretty soon and gain a home-field advantage in the playoffs, doubts will start to creep into the mix. Doubt would be premature, probably, because coach Mike Holmgren spent most of last season repeating the mantra "Brett Favre is young" over and over again. Truth is, Holmgren had to keep reminding himself so he wouldn't go nuts. Favre threw 24 interceptions, one for each year of his life. Counting two playoff games, Favre threw 27 interceptions and fumbled 16 times, losing seven. He accounted for 34 of the team's 39 turnovers. Granted, the quarterback handles the ball on every play, but that is an overwhelming statistic. Running backs Darrell Thompson and Edgar Bennett, for example, lost one fumble between them. If the Packers are to take the next step, they will have to follow Favre.

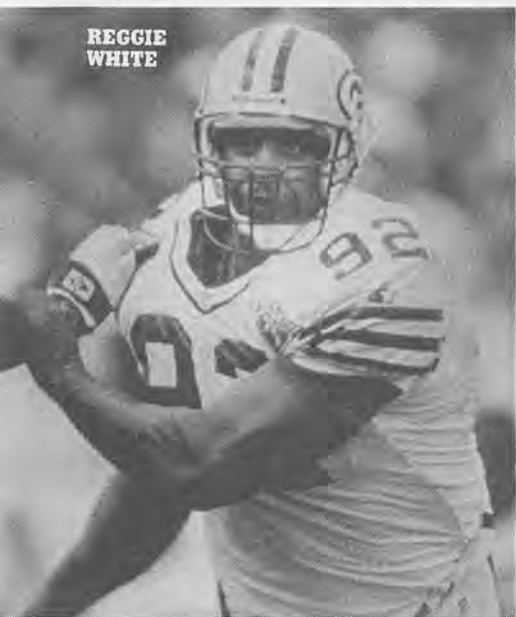
"The only single stat where he is not consistent is in his interceptions," Holmgren said. "Every other measurable that you want to come up with, he is as consistent a quarterback in his first two years [as any who] ever played this game." Favre did throw 19 touchdown passes, behind only Steve Young, John Elway, Bobby Hebert, and Warren Moon. If

STERLING SHARPE



Favre falters, the Packers won't hesitate to try young Mark Brunell, impressive as a rookie in practice although he saw no action in games. Ty Detmer also looks capable. Favre is as durable as they get, and remains Holmgren's quarterback of the future. "I've thrown so much at him in two years, and sometimes you have to take a step backwards and then take two steps forward," Holmgren said.

With Sterling Sharpe around, sometimes it seems nothing else matters. Losing in New Orleans? Find Sharpe. Losing to Tampa Bay? There's Sharpe. One minute from playoff elimination against Detroit? Sharpe is standing alone in the end zone. He broke his own NFL record with 112 catches, 80 more than the team's other wide receiver, Mark Clayton, who has since departed. It is an imbalance that rivals nevertheless can't seem to exploit. Shutting down one receiver shouldn't be as difficult as Sharpe makes it. The Packers expect Robert Brooks to emerge on the other side after a season as a third receiver and kick-return specialist. "I've told this to Sterling: He shouldn't catch 110 passes every year. Not if we have the other people in order and in line," Holmgren said. The Packers drafted three wide receivers in the fifth and sixth rounds to provide camp competition with Ron Lewis, Anthony Morgan, Lionel Crawford, and Willie Harris. Tight end Jackie Harris is the secondary target whose 14.4-yard average made him the "deep threat." Ed West remains the blocking tight end.



REGGIE WHITE

At running back, the Packers expect free agent Reggie Cobb (Bucs) to return to the form that made him a 1,000-yard rusher in 1992 in Tampa. A midseason knee injury slowed him last fall, but he is a talent who will replace Thompson as the feature back Holmgren has not had. Fullback Edgar Bennett caught 59 passes and gained 550 rushing yards in establishing himself as a force. Third-round draft choice LeShon Johnson promises to come in and take over from everybody after leading the nation in rushing at Northern Illinois. He has the speed to go all the way and provide a change of pace from Cobb. Backup fullback Dexter McNabb will be pushed by fifth-rounder Dorsey Levens.

Change on the offensive line is again expected with the addition of first-round draft choice Aaron Taylor of Notre Dame. He will take over for Rich Moran and Doug Widell at left guard next to tackle Ken Ruettggers, who is coming off his best season at age 31. Center Frank Winters is backed by Lance Zeno. Harry Galbreath is the right guard, with Joe Sims at right tackle, pushed by 320-pound Earl Dotson. Mirko Jurkovic, brother of nose tackle John, could make it as a backup guard.

New defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur is a master of creating systems to fit personnel, and it's a good thing. Since the Packers appear to have more linemen than linebackers, they may switch from the 3-4 to the 4-3. Sean Jones (Oilers) arrives to help Reggie White and could move right end Matt Brock to tackle alongside the tenacious Jurkovic. Scott Mersereau arrived from the Jets and ex-Viking Gilbert Brown adds depth inside, along with fourth-round choice Gabe Wilkins. Don Davey and ex-49er Matt LaBounty are other re-



REGGIE COBB

serves. White tied for the NFC lead with 13 sacks last year, living up to his billing on a defense that finished second in the league without an abundance of stars.

Bryce Paup is a versatile linebacker who played inside in a pinch but will replace Tony Bennett (Colts) outside. He also can play down with Jones moving to tackle in a 4-3 look. Wayne Simmons expects to shake the rookie injury bug and become a fixture at left linebacker, with inside spots a question mark depending on the availability of Johnny Holland, James Willis, George Koonce, and the surgically repaired Mark D'Onofrio. Keo Coleman is coming off a broken leg after some impressive stunts as a fill-in.

Terrell Buckley continues to look for more consistency at left corner, where he wants to make more big plays than he gives up. Doug Evans or Sammy Walker could challenge Roland Mitchell at the other side, with versatile Corey Harris also a possibility. Walker is the

nickel back. LeRoy Butler was inexplicably snubbed in Pro Bowl voting after an all-pro year at strong safety in which he added six interceptions to 90 tackles. George Teague capped a rookie season at corner and free safety with a 101-yard interception return to help oust the Lions in the playoffs. If a thyroid condition that caused him to lose weight is under control, Teague should develop fast now that he's strictly the free safety. Mike Prior and Tim Hauck are backups.

Place-kicker Chris Jacke was 12 of 14 beyond 40 yards and doesn't have indoor luxury. Craig Hentrich will push punter Bryan Wagner. Corey Harris and LeShon Johnson will return kickoffs, with Prior and the young receivers slated for punt-return duty.

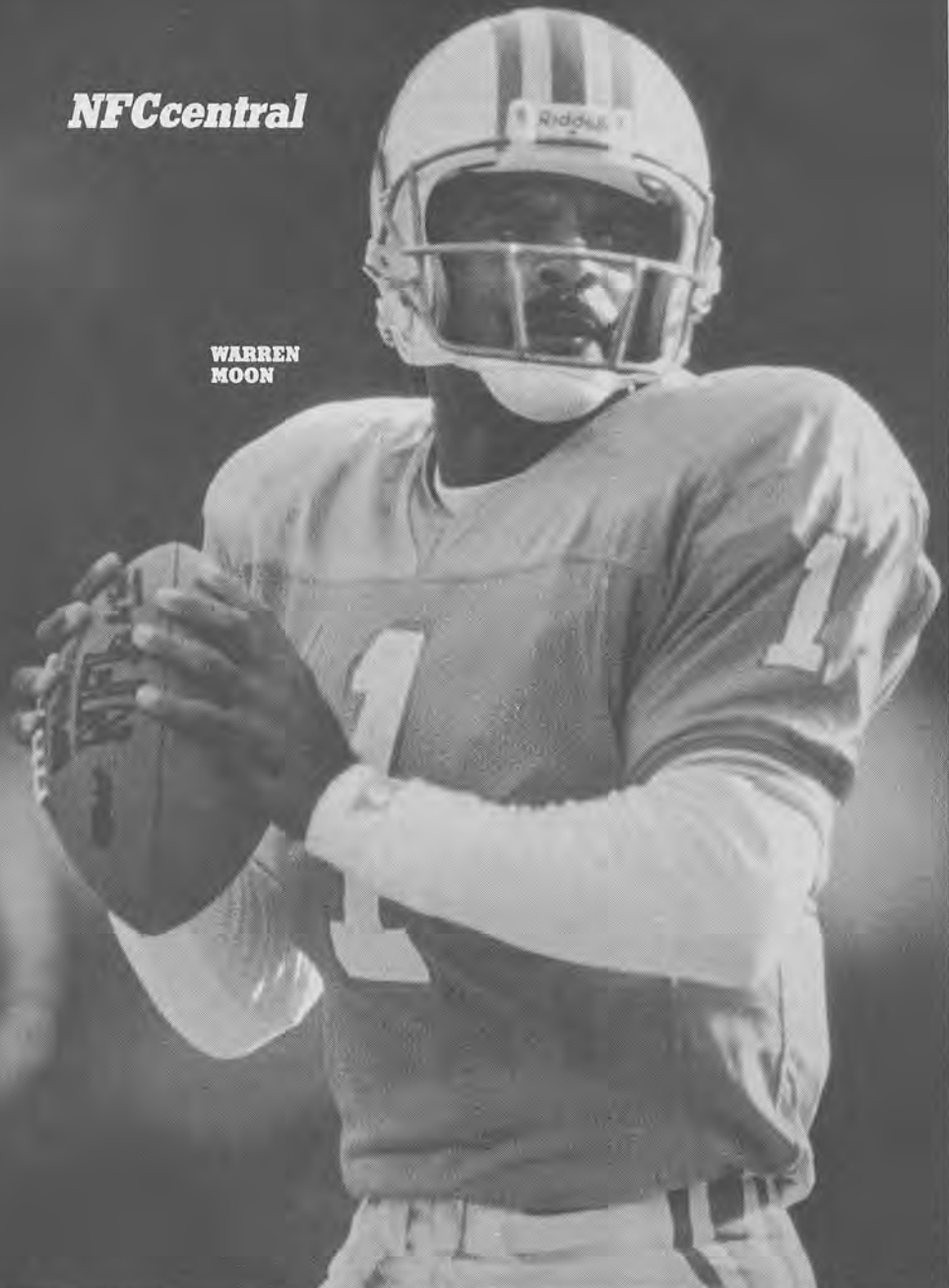
PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
34	Bennett, Edgar	FB	6-0	216	25	Florida State
62	Brock, Matt	DE	6-5	280	28	Oregon
87	Brooks, Robert	WR	6-0	174	24	South Carolina
71	Brown, Gilbert	NT	6-2	330	23	Kansas
8	Brunell, Mark	QB	6-1	208	24	Washington
27	Buckley, Terrell	CB	5-9	174	23	Florida State
36	Butler, LeRoy	S	6-0	193	26	Florida State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	242	25	Boston College
32	Cobb, Reggie	RB	6-0	215	26	Tennessee
54	Coleman, Keo	LB	6-1	255	24	Mississippi State
82	Crawford, Lionel	WR	5-10	185	25	Wisconsin
99	Davey, Don	DE	6-4	270	26	Wisconsin
11	Detmer, Ty	QB	6-0	190	27	Brigham Young
58	D'Onofrio, Mark	LB	6-2	235	25	Penn State
72	Dotson, Earl	T	6-3	320	24	Texas A&M
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-0	188	24	Louisiana Tech
93	Evans, Mike	DE	6-3	270	27	Michigan
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	218	25	Southern Miss
76	Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	275	29	Tennessee
30	Harris, Corey	CB	5-11	195	25	Vanderbilt
80	Harris, Jackie	TE	6-3	243	26	NE Louisiana
83	Harris, Willie	WR	6-1	194	24	Mississippi State
24	Hauck, Tim	S	5-10	185	28	Montana
17	Hentrich, Craig	P/K	6-3	200	23	Notre Dame
50	Holland, Johnny	LB	6-2	235	29	Texas A&M
67	Hutchins, Paul	T	6-4	335	24	Western Michigan
13	Jacke, Chris	K	6-0	200	28	UTEP
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	275	32	Northeastern
64	Jurkovic, John	NT	6-2	285	27	Eastern Illinois
77	Jurkovic, Mirko	G	6-3	290	24	Notre Dame
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	238	26	East Carolina
97	LaBounty, Matt	DE	6-3	254	25	Oregon
85	Lewis, Ron	WR	5-11	189	26	Florida State
44	McNabb, Dexter	FB	6-1	245	25	Florida
57	Merrweather, Mike	LB	6-2	228	34	Pacific
94	Mersereau, Scott	NT	6-3	275	29	S. Connecticut
47	Mitchell, Roland	CB	5-11	195	30	Texas Tech
61	Morgan, Anthony	WR	6-1	195	27	Tennessee
95	Paup, Bryce	LB	6-5	247	26	Northern Iowa
45	Prior, Mike	S	6-0	215	31	Illinois State
73	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	315	36	East Carolina
75	Ruettggers, Ken	T	6-6	290	32	USC
84	Sharpe, Sterling	WR	6-1	210	29	South Carolina
59	Simmons, Wayne	LB	6-2	240	25	Clemson
68	Sims, Joe	T	6-3	310	25	Nebraska
31	Teague, George	S	6-1	187	23	Alabama
9	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	200	32	Cal St.-Northridge
23	Walker, Sammy	CB	5-11	203	25	Texas Tech
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	245	33	Auburn
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	290	33	Tennessee
74	Widell, Doug	G	6-4	280	28	Boston College
20	Williams, Kevin	RB	6-1	215	24	UCLA
43	Williams, Mark	LB	6-3	229	23	Ohio State
56	Willis, James	LB	6-1	235	22	Auburn
29	Wilson, Marcus	RB	6-1	210	26	Virginia
52	Winters, Frank	C/G	6-3	285	30	Western Illinois
60	Zeno, Lance	C	6-4	279	27	UCLA

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Taylor, Aaron	OL	6-4	303	Notre Dame
3	Johnson, LeShon	RB	6-0	201	Northern Illinois
4	Wilkins, Gabe	DE	6-6	326	Gardner-Webb
5	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-2	197	Florida A&M
5	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	221	Georgia Tech
6	Kearney, Jay	WR	6-2	180	West Virginia
6	Hamilton, Ruffin	LB	6-2	227	Tulane
6	Schroeder, Bill	WR	6-3	200	Wis.-La Crosse
6	Duckworth, Paul	LB	6-1	244	Connecticut

WARREN
MOON



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Warren Moon represents another step up the ladder of progress for Minnesota coach Dennis Green. The Vikings seem to thrive on change. The former Oiler will be Green's fourth starting quarterback in three seasons, following Rich Gannon, Sean Salisbury, and Jim McMahon. Age doesn't seem to matter. Gannon was 27, Salisbury 29, McMahon 34, and Moon is 37 as he starts for the Vikings. Production is Green's measuring stick. Gannon and Salisbury won the NFC Central Division title in 1992; McMahon helped get the '93 team into the playoffs. Moon must take them further, something he was unable to do in 10 years with Houston.

Moon has thrown for 54,913 yards, more than any quarterback in pro football history. With 33,685 career passing yards in the NFL, he is the only quarterback to throw for more than 20,000 in two leagues, having left the Canadian Football League in 1984 with 21,228 yards. As a playoff quarterback with the Oilers, Moon had a 3-6 record. The Oilers never were able to advance to the AFC cham-

pionship game while Moon was there. But Moon's stature as a leader was never questioned. Last year, he helped provide the glue during a tumultuous season in which he was benched and his offensive coordinator, Kevin Gilbride, was feuding with defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan. Moon will join a club that also had problems. Green fired offensive coordinator Jack Burns after two games and promoted tight ends coach Brian Billick. Moon will not be working in the run-and-shoot offense that he engineered in Houston, but the run-and-shoot did not make Moon; Moon made the run-and-shoot. In the 49er-style attack Green prefers, Moon is expected to be just as effective and less vulnerable.

Houston's offense was exposed in the playoffs when injuries to the Oiler offensive line and the lack of a tight end and fullback in the design left Moon naked in the pocket. For a man who will turn 38 in November, a more conventional offense offering better protection will be a welcome sight. Before trading for Moon, the Vikings addressed the concern of quarterback protection by signing free-agent

tackle Chris Hinton, who rejoins his coach at Northwestern, Green. Hinton will protect Moon's backside, returning to left tackle after a stellar career in which he has made the Pro Bowl at three positions. Behind Moon, the Vikings will rely on youngsters Gino Torretta and Brad Johnson, both of whom show promise.

Moon never had enough receivers in Houston, and that is the case in Minnesota, where Alabama's little David Palmer was added to a group in desperate need of a game-breaker to complement Cris Carter. Carter is one of the league's consistent big-play receivers, but the Vikings and the Washington Redskins were the only teams in the league last year without a receiver who averaged more than 13 yards per catch. Anthony Carter averaged 12.9. Qadry Ismail has the speed to get deep, but he lacked consistency as a rookie. Injuries have slowed the development of Jake Reed, so Palmer has a chance to make an immediate impact, and Moon is accustomed to finding diminutive receivers. The Vikings traded to land Steelers tight end Adrian Cooper, who arrived without much recommendation from his old team but with a fair track record playing with and behind Eric Green. Cooper could push veteran Steve Jordan to retirement.

Running back Scottie Graham rescued the Vikings last year with 487 yards in the final five games, four of them victories. His clutch performance eases anxiety about the health of Terry Allen and Robert Smith, both coming off knee injuries. Allen was a 1,000-yard performer in 1992 whose loss for the entire '93 season

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Reveiz, 105 points on 27 extra points and 26 field goals . . . 7th
RUSHING—Graham, 487 yards on 118 carries, 4.1 avg., 3 TDs . . . 16th
PASSING—McMahon, 200 of 331 attempts for 1,968 yards and 9 TDs . . . 7th
RECEIVING—Carter, 86 receptions for 1,071 yards, 12.5 avg., 9 TDs . . . 14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Glenn, 5 for 49 yards, 9.8 average . . . 13rd
PUNTING—Newsome, 90 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 64 yards . . . 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Guliford, 29 for 212 yards, 7.3 average . . . 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 42 for 902 yards, 21.5 average . . . 7th
SACKS—Doleman, 12.5 sacks . . . T2nd
—Randle, 12.5 sacks . . . T2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	31	At Dallas (N)
August	6	Kansas City at Tokyo, Japan (N)
	13	NEW ORLEANS (N)
	20	At Seattle (N)
	26	MIAMI (N)

1994 SCHEDULE		1993 SCORES
September	4 At Green Bay	21-17
	11 DETROIT	27-30
	18 At Chicago	19-12
	25 MIAMI	—
October	2 At Arizona	—
	10 At N.Y. Giants (N)	—
	16 OPEN DATE	—
	20 GREEN BAY (N)	15-13
	30 At Tampa Bay	10-23
November	6 NEW ORLEANS	14-17
	13 At New England	—
	20 N.Y. JETS	—
	27 TAMPA BAY	15-0
December	1 CHICAGO (N)	10-7
	11 At Buffalo	—
	17 At Detroit	13-0
	26 SAN FRANCISCO (N)	19-38

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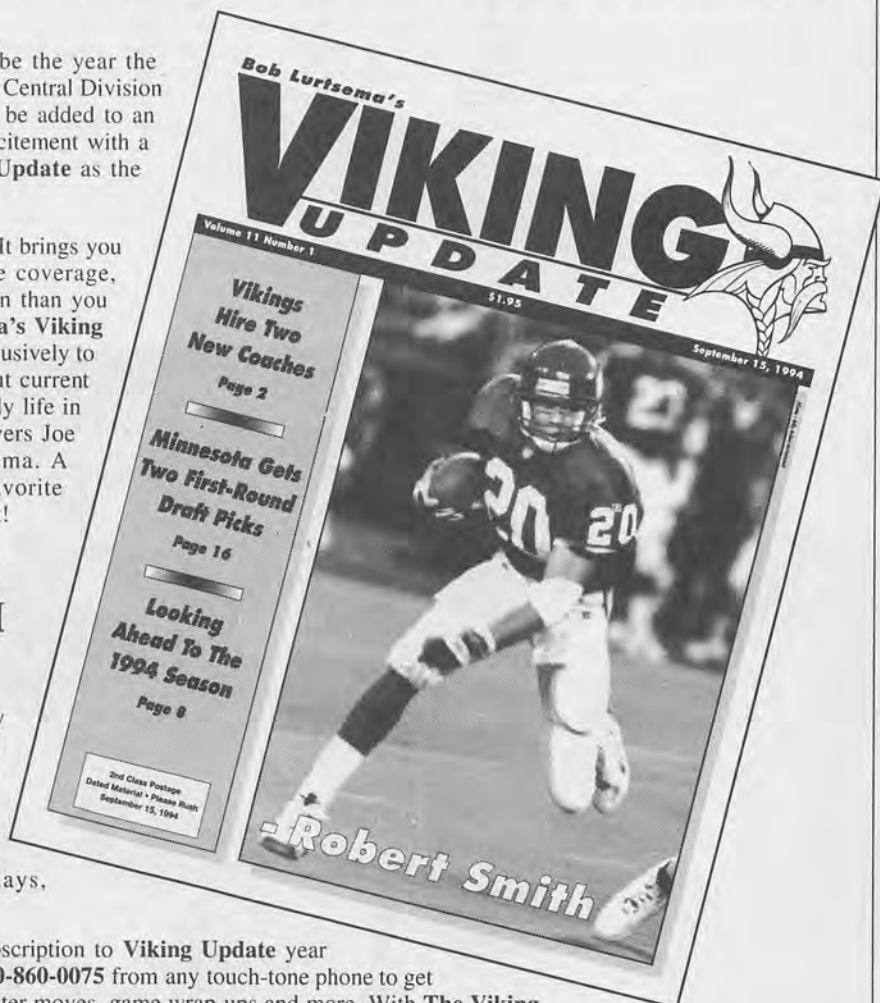
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was a devastating blow. When No. 1 rookie Smith was healthy, he looked good, but he probably will be most effective when he doesn't have to carry the load. If both Allen and Smith are 100 percent, the Vikings feel comfortable with Graham, Charles Evans, and practice-squadder Alex Smith.

Hinton joins a revamped line, enabling former free-agent find Bernard Dafney to replace the departed Tim Irwin (Bucs) at right tackle. Dafney was adequate at left tackle after rookie Everett Lindsay started the season. Lindsay also can play guard, where perennial all-pro Randall McDaniel is a fixture on the left side next to Hinton. Second-year man John Gerak is a candidate to beat out Todd Kallis at right guard, with first-round draftee Todd Steussie capable of playing guard or tackle. Adam Schreiber graded well at center, so the Vikings appear to be deep and flexible up front.

Trading sack specialist Chris Doleman to the Falcons means new direction for the league's No. 1-ranked defense. Doleman was no longer the key to a front four trained to create havoc by line coach John Teerlinck. Tackle John Randle tied Doleman for most sacks with 12½ and was rewarded with a Pro Bowl berth. Tackle Henry Thomas missed the final three games with an ankle injury and still

tied his career best of nine sacks. Young left end Roy Barker had six sacks. No other starting front four in football had so many sacks (40 of the team's 45). To replace Doleman, the Vikings think James Harris is ready to play. If he's not, then second-round draft choice Fernando Smith, who was compared to Richard Dent by Green. Barker could move to the right side and Robert Harris could step up his game. Other backups inside include Brad Culpepper, John Thornton, and fourth-round-er Mike Wells.

Because of the front four, the linebacking is adequate, led by middle man Jack Del Rio. He is flanked by weakside backer Fred Strickland and Carlos Jenkins. They were 1-2-3 in tackles last season. Ed McDaniel, Greg Manusky, Ashley Sheppard, Dave Garnett, and Bobby Abrams provide depth.

Cornerback DeWayne Washington of North Carolina State was the No. 1 draft choice and

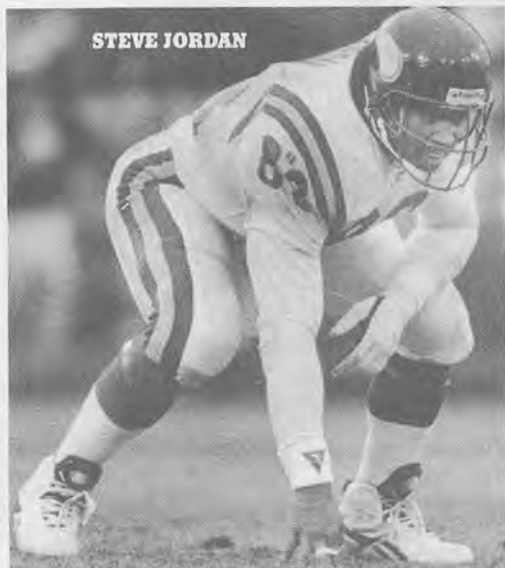
will replace Audrey McMillian at right corner opposite 33-year-old Carl Lee. Fifth-rounder Shelly Hammonds will compete with Anthony Parker and Jayce Pearson for backup spots. Free safety Vencie Glenn led the team in interceptions and strong safety Lamar McGriggs replaced Todd Scott, who battled injuries but could regain his star 1992 form.

Ismail and Eric Guliford returns kicks, but Palmer figures in this area. Fuad Reveiz was 25-25 on kicks under 46 yards. Harry Newsome punted well until the playoffs.

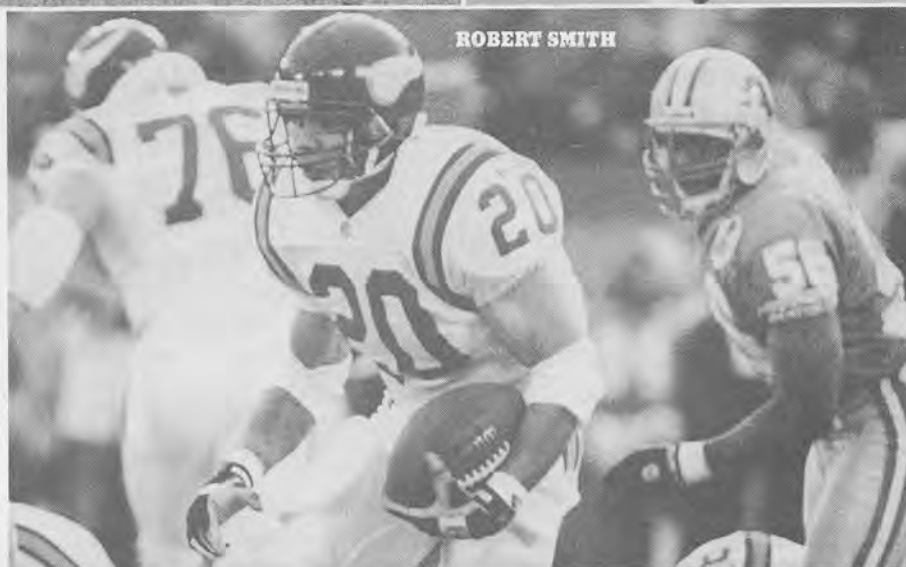
JOHN RANDLE



STEVE JORDAN



ROBERT SMITH



VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
50	Abrams, Bobby	LB	6-3	230	27	Michigan
72	Adams, Scott	OL	6-5	293	28	Georgia
21	Allen, Terry	RB	5-10	197	26	Clemson
92	Barker, Roy	DT	6-4	280	25	North Carolina
96	Boudreaux, Frank	DT	6-5	273	24	Northwestern
67	Boyd, Tracy	T	6-4	296	27	Elizabeth City St.
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	168	34	Michigan
80	Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	198	29	Ohio State
62	Christy, Jeff	C	6-3	277	25	Pittsburgh
87	Cooper, Adrian	TE	6-5	263	26	Oklahoma
33	Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	211	34	Nebraska
77	Culpepper, Brad	DT	6-1	260	26	Florida
75	Dafney, Bernard	T	6-5	331	25	Tennessee
55	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	243	31	USC
29	Evans, Charles	LB	6-1	226	27	Clark
54	Garnett, Dave	RB	6-2	219	24	Stanford
66	Gerak, John	G	6-3	285	24	Penn State
25	Glenn, Vencie	S	6-0	201	30	Indiana State
31	Graham, Scottie	RB	5-9	215	25	Ohio State
84	Guliford, Eric	WR	5-8	165	25	Arizona State
99	Harris, James	DE	6-4	270	26	Temple
90	Harris, Robert	DE	6-4	290	25	Southern
48	Harrison, Todd	TE	6-4	260	25	N.C. State
78	Hinton, Chris	T	6-4	305	33	Northwestern
82	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	192	24	Syracuse
51	Jenkins, Carlos	LB	6-3	217	26	Michigan State
14	Johnson, Brad	QB	6-5	221	26	Florida State
52	Jones, Donald	LB	6-0	231	25	Washington
11	Jones, Richard	P	6-3	198	29	Arizona State
32	Jones, Shawn	S	6-1	200	24	Georgia Tech
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	242	33	Brown
69	Kallis, Todd	G	6-5	289	29	Arizona State
39	Lee, Carl	CB	5-11	186	33	Marshall
45	Lenseigne, Tony	TE	6-4	235	25	E. Washington
61	Lindsay, Everett	G	6-4	290	24	Mississippi
91	Manusky, Greg	LB	6-1	233	28	Colgate
58	McDaniel, Ed	LB	5-11	230	25	Clemson
64	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	275	30	Arizona State
37	McGriggs, Lamar	S	6-3	210	26	Western Illinois
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	212	37	Washington
68	Morris, Mike	C	6-5	284	33	NE Missouri St.
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	193	31	Wake Forest
85	Novoselsky, Brent	TE	6-2	237	28	Pennsylvania
27	Parker, Anthony	CB	5-10	181	28	Arizona State
24	Pearson, Jayce	CB	5-11	184	31	Washington
93	Randle, John	DT	6-1	275	27	Texas A&I
86	Reed, Jake	WR	6-3	212	27	Grambling
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	223	31	Tennessee
12	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	218	31	USC
60	Schreiber, Adam	OL	6-4	288	32	Texas
38	Scott, Todd	S	5-10	207	26	SW Louisiana
59	Sheppard, Ashley	LB	6-3	243	25	Clemson
57	Sims, William	LB	6-3	265	24	SW Louisiana
22	Smith, Alex	RB	5-10	211	25	Auburn
20	Smith, Robert	RB	6-0	195	22	Ohio State
41	Staten, Robert	RB	5-11	235	26	Jackson State
53	Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	245	28	Purdue
46	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-2	251	30	UCLA
97	Thomas, Henry	DT	6-2	277	29	LSU
94	Thornton, John	DT	6-3	303	25	Cincinnati
13	Torretta, Gino	QB	6-2	215	24	Miami
89	Truitt, Olanda	WR	6-0	186	23	Mississippi State
98	Tuolo, Eserra	DT	6-2	274	26	Oregon State
35	West, Ronnie	WR	6-1	215	26	Pittsburg State
23	Word, Barry	RB	6-2	242	31	Virginia

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Washington, DeWayne	CB	5-11	192	N.C. State
1	Steussie, Todd	OT	6-6	315	California
2	Palmer, David	WR	5-8	167	Alabama
2	Smith, Fernando	DE	6-5	284	Jackson State
4	Wells, Mike	DT	6-4	280	Iowa
5	Hammonds, Shelly	DB	5-10	190	Penn State
6	Jordan, Andrew	TE	6-6	260	Western Carolina
7	Berich, Pete	LB	6-2	237	Notre Dame

ERIK KRAMER



1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler, 102 points on 21 extra points and 27 field goals... 9th
RUSHING—Anderson, 646 yards on 202 carries, 3.2 avg., 4 TDs... 13th
PASSING—Harbaugh, 200 of 325 attempts for 2,002 yards and 7 TDs... 9th
RECEIVING—Waddle, 44 receptions for 734 yards, 12.5 avg., 1 TD... 23rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Carrier, 4 for 94 yards, 23.5 avg., 1 TD... 14th
PUNTING—Gardocki, 80 punts, 38.5 avg., longest 58 yards... 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Obee, 35 for 289 yards, 8.3 average... 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Conway, 21 for 450 yards, 21.4 average... 8th
SACKS—Dent, 12.5 sacks... T2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 PHILADELPHIA (N)
 13 At Arizona (N)
 22 At Kansas City (N)
 27 N.Y. GIANTS (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

September 4 TAMPA BAY... 47-17
 12 At Philadelphia (N)... 17-6
 18 MINNESOTA... 12-19
 25 At N.Y. Jets (N) ...
 October 2 BUFFALO...
 9 NEW ORLEANS...
 16 OPEN DATE...
 23 At Detroit... 10-6
 31 GREEN BAY (N)... 30-17
 November 6 At Tampa Bay... 10-13
 13 At Miami...
 20 DETROIT... 14-20
 27 At Arizona...
 December 1 At Minnesota (N)... 7-10
 11 At Green Bay... 3-17
 18 L.A. RAMS... 6-10
 24 NEW ENGLAND...

1993 SCORES

CHICAGO BEARS

The Bears came awfully close to making the playoffs last year in Dave Wannstedt's head-coaching debut, but losing their last four games saved them the trouble of explaining such an improbable feat to their fans. They simply weren't that good. A 7-5 record after a four-game winning streak teased expectations beyond reality. The Bears won an unprecedented three road games in 11 days on the way, but they soon returned to a more believable level.

While Wannstedt's defense improved from 24th after the opening game to fourth after game 16, the offense was non-existent. It finished 28th only because there are just 28 teams. To correct the problem, Wannstedt will start 1994 with as many as 10 new starters on offense. The only sure holdover is left guard Mark Bortz. The idea is to upgrade speed at

all positions, sometimes at all cost. So determined was Wannstedt to improve the overall team speed that he drafted receiver Curtis Conway in the first round last season without much caring who would throw to him, who would block, who would run. Conway showed promise, but he became just the first brick in the building process, unable to make a difference by himself.

This year, the Bears jettisoned quarterback Jim Harbaugh and replaced him with Erik Kramer of the Lions. What Detroit coach Wayne Fontes failed to see in Kramer was apparent to Wannstedt every time he played him. Kramer has won 13 NFL games as a starter, three against Wannstedt defenses in Dallas and Chicago. He has thrown 27 touchdown passes, seven against Wannstedt defenses. He may be a third-stringer to Fontes, but he

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
93	Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-4	265	29	Florida
70	Auzenne, Troy	T	6-7	290	25	California
91	Baker, Myron	LB	6-1	228	23	Louisiana Tech
47	Blaylock, Anthony	CB	5-10	185	29	Winston-Salem
30	Brewer, Dewell	HB	5-8	203	24	Oklahoma
81	Brooks, Anthony	WR	5-11	179	26	East Texas State
63	Burger, Todd	G	6-3	290	24	Penn State
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	282	33	Iowa
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	204	32	Georgia
59	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	233	29	Oregon Tech
20	Carrier, Mark	S	6-1	192	26	USC
44	Christian, Bob	RB	5-10	225	26	Northwestern
80	Conway, Curtis	WR	6-0	185	23	USC
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	235	26	Fresno State
82	Davis, Wendell	WR	6-0	188	28	LSU
37	Douglass, Maurice	CB	5-11	202	30	Kentucky
65	Epps, Tony	DT	6-1	280	27	Memphis State
74	Fontenot, Albert	DE	6-4	265	24	Baylor
67	Fontenot, Jerry	OL	6-3	287	28	Texas A&M
17	Gardocki, Chris	P/K	6-1	188	24	Clemson
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	202	32	Ohio State
84	Gedney, Chris	TE	6-5	262	24	Syracuse
22	Green, Robert	RB	5-8	209	24	William & Mary
86	Harris, Willie	WR	6-1	193	24	Mississippi State
64	Heck, Andy	T	6-6	298	27	Notre Dame
33	Hoge, Merrill	FB	6-2	230	29	Idaho State
88	Holder, Chirs	WR	6-0	185	26	Tuskegee
85	Jennings, Keith	TE	6-4	265	28	Clemson
25	Johnson, Keshon	CB	5-10	179	24	Arizona
53	Jones, Dante	LB	6-2	230	29	Oklahoma
72	Kmet, Frank	OL-DL	6-3	290	24	Purdue
	Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	210	32	BYU
12	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-1	193	30	N.C. State
58	Leeuwenburg, Jay	OL	6-2	288	25	Colorado
39	Lincoln, Jeremy	CB	5-10	180	25	Tennessee
26	Mangum, John	S	5-10	182	27	Alabama
9	Matthews, Shane	QB	6-3	197	24	Florida
60	McGuire, Gene	C	6-2	286	24	Notre Dame
24	Minifiefield, Kevin	CB	5-9	178	24	Arizona State
92	Minter, Barry	LB	6-2	242	24	Tulsa
69	Myslinski, Tom	G	6-2	293	26	Tennessee
83	Obee, Terry	WR	5-10	180	26	Oregon
75	Perry, Todd	G	6-5	298	24	Kentucky
99	Ryan, Tim	DT	6-4	265	27	USC
52	Schwartz, Jim	LB	6-2	232	24	Purdue
98	Simpson, Carl	DT	6-2	282	24	Florida State
55	Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	236	29	East Carolina
96	Snow, Percy	LB	6-2	245	27	Michigan State
90	Spellman, Alonzo	DE	6-4	282	23	Ohio State
	Tillman, Lewis	RB	6-0	195	28	Jackson State
87	Waddle, Tom	WR	6-0	185	27	Boston College
	Walsh, Steve	QB	6-3	204	28	Miami
89	Wetnight, Ryan	TE	6-2	228	24	Stanford
71	Williams, James	T	6-7	330	26	Cheyney State
73	Wojciechowski, John	G	6-4	280	31	Michigan State
21	Woodford, Donnell	CB	5-9	188	28	Clemson
38	Worley, Tim	RB	6-2	226	28	Georgia
97	Zorich, Chris	DT	6-1	275	25	Notre Dame

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Thierry, John	LB	6-4	248	Alcorn State
2	Spears, Marcus	OL	6-4	302	Northwestern La.
3	Flanigan, Jim	DT	6-2	276	Notre Dame
4	Harris, Raymond	RB	6-1	220	Ohio State
6	Hill, Lloyd	WR	6-2	180	Texas Tech
7	Collier, Dennis	S	5-9	190	Colorado

was a first-stringer to Wannstedt. The Bears were so sure of Kramer that he became the first quarterback to sign in the offseason, starting the musical chairs in the NFC Central and elsewhere. The Bears rated Kramer ahead of Scott Mitchell, who was signed by the Lions. The Bears didn't even consider Warren Moon, signed by the Vikings. They didn't want to make an offer to Packers' restricted free agent Brett Favre. They didn't want to wait and try to draft Trent Dilfer, chosen by the Buccaneers. Steve Walsh, familiar to Wannstedt in Dallas, signed as a backup

from the Saints and second-year man Shane Matthews is in reserve.

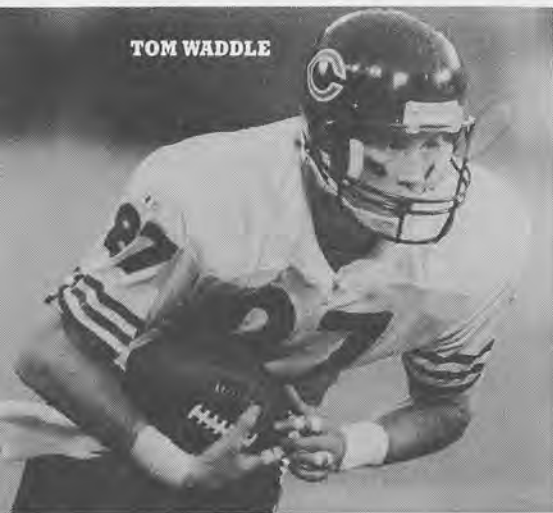
Turnover has occurred faster at running back than at any other position. Last year, the Bears signed Craig Heyward and Tim Worley to replace Brad Muster and Neal Anderson. This year, they signed Lewis Tillman (Giants) and Merrill Hoge (Steelers) to replace Heyward and Worley. Then they drafted Raymont Harris, who might replace the latest replacements. And the running game was the best part of the Bears' offense last season, finishing 19th in the league.

The receiving corps is in flux, with Conway hopeful that some added weight and maturity will enable him to become all he can be. He caught only 19 passes last year, two for touchdowns, and averaged just 12 yards per catch. Opposite Conway, the job is open, with third-down pluggers and leading receiver Tom Waddle and overachiever Terry Obee the holdovers and Wannstedt constantly checking the waiver lists. At tight end, second-year prospect Chris Gedney expects to shake the injuries that ruined his rookie season. Keith Jennings is an adequate backup.

Bortz is the lone remnant of one of the best and most durable offensive lines of the '80s. When it eroded, so did the fortunes of a team that dominated its division. Wannstedt spent an uncharacteristically high draft choice (second) on a tackle, Marcus Spears, to provide competition for Troy Auzenne on the vital left side. If neither pans out, former Seahawk free agent Andy Heck will move from right tackle,



TOM WADDLE




where he replaces the retired Keith Van Horne and young fill-in Jay Leeuwenburg. Second-year man Todd Perry figures to start at right guard opposite Bortz. Leeuwenburg will push Jerry Fontenot at center or push somebody somewhere for a starting spot after an exceptional season playing out of position at both tackles. Veteran John Wojciechowski and former defensive lineman James Williams are also in the picture.

Wannstedt's defense is the glue that keeps the team competitive throughout the rebuilding, but the Bears will try to maintain their effectiveness without Richard Dent for the first time since 1983. Dent is one of the league's all-time leading sackers. Wannstedt wanted


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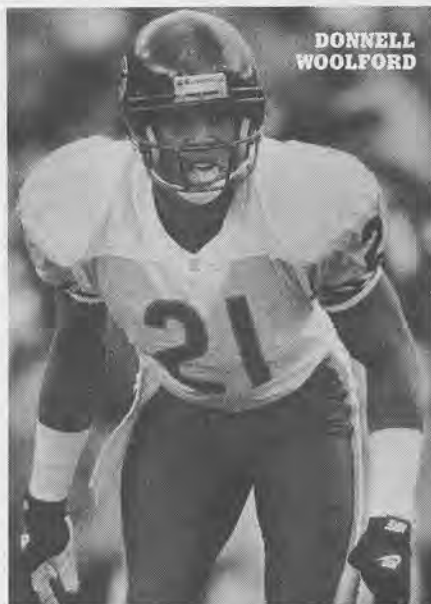
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TRACE ARMSTRONG

him to return, but not at the price the 33-year-old Dent sought. When the Bears drafted Alcorn State linebacker John Thierry in the first round, Dent's future in Chicago was past. Thierry is bigger than Dent was when he arrived a decade ago, so the Bears think they have a faster, younger talent who can develop into their premier rusher on the right side. Alonzo Spellman, their 1992 No. 1 draft choice, will be the starter in Dent's spot so Thierry doesn't feel the immediate pressure. The Bears also released Steve McMichael, 36, the oldest defensive tackle in the league, and drafted Notre Dame's Jim Flanigan in the third round, immediately labeling him "a young Steve McMichael." Flanigan will battle

second-year tackle Carl Simpson for a spot opposite his former Notre Dame teammate Chris Zorich, who had seven sacks last year. Left end Trace Armstrong is coming off his best year, finishing with 11½ sacks, one fewer than Dent, and three fumble recoveries. Spellman, Albert Fontenot, and Tim Ryan give the Bears the kind of flexibility and depth on the defensive line that made the Cowboys so effective.



DONNELL WOOLFORD

Dante Jones emerged as a worthy successor to Mike Singletary at middle linebacker, leading the team in tackles and tying safety Mark Carrier for the team lead with four interceptions, three more than Singletary ever made in a single season. Ex-Cowboy Vinson Smith is a versatile linebacker who starts on the left but can also play the middle. Ex-Seahawk Joe Cain plays the right side. Myron Baker and Barry Minter are backups.

Donnell Woolford made the Pro Bowl all left cornerback, making enough big plays to put him into the elite class near the Eagles' Eric Allen and the Falcons' Deion Sanders. Anthony Blaylock started nine games and while injured watched Jeremy Lincoln start seven. Lincoln's three interceptions (Blaylock had two) means the Bears have unusual depth and talent at a vital spot. Keshon Johnson also played well as a rookie. Carrier is solid at free safety, but he may have to adjust to someone other than Shaun Gayle at strong safety. John Mangum is on the small but smart side, making him a worthy replacement candidate for the 32-year-old Gayle. Maurice Douglass is a special-teams' player and backup safety.

Kevin Butler made more field goals from 50-plus yards than he did from 40-49 yards, but he survives the Soldier Field winds as well as anyone. Chris Gardocki has developed into an outstanding punter. Opponents returned only 22 of 80 punts and only Jeff Feagles dropped more inside the 20. Conway and Obee return kicks and punts, but neither looks irreplaceable.

BEWARE OF THE BEARS



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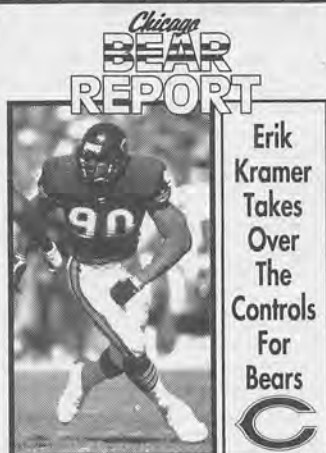
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BARRY SANDERS

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Hanson, 130 points on 28 extra points and 34 field goals...1st
 RUSHING—Sanders, 1,115 yards on 243 carries, 4.6 avg., 3 TDs...4th
 PASSING—Peete, 157 of 252 attempts for 1,670 yards and 6 TDs...11th
 RECEIVING—Moore, 61 receptions for 935 yards, 15.3 avg., 6 TDs...13th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Swilling, 3 for 16 yards, 5.3 average...15th
 PUNTING—Arnold, 72 punts, 44.5 avg., longest 68 yards...1st
 PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 23 for 197 yards, 8.6 average...5th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, 28 for 688 yards, 24.6 avg., 1 TD...4th
 SACKS—Porchner, 8.5 sacks...T8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 N.Y. JETS (N)
 13 At Cleveland (N)
 19 ARIZONA (N)
 26 At Cincinnati (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

		1993 SCORES
September	4 ATLANTA	30-13
	11 At Minnesota	30-27
	19 At Dallas (N)	—
	25 NEW ENGLAND	—
October	2 At Tampa Bay	10-27
	9 SAN FRANCISCO	17-55
	16 OPEN DATE	—
	23 CHICAGO	6-10
	30 At N.Y. Giants	—
November	6 Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI.	17-26
	13 TAMPA BAY (N)	23-0
	20 At Chicago	20-14
	24 BUFFALO	—
December	4 GREEN BAY	30-20
	10 At N.Y. Jets	—
	17 MINNESOTA	0-13
	25 At Miami (N)	—

DETROIT LIONS

After winning their second NFC Central Division title in three years with Erik Kramer at quarterback, the Lions pulled some strange offseason maneuvering. First, they let Kramer get away to the Chicago Bears without much resistance. Coach Wayne Fontes explained he never was "comfortable" with Kramer—or with any of his quarterbacks, for that matter. Then the Lions delved into free agency with a passion, outbidding the Vikings for Miami's young left-hander, Scott Mitchell. They gave him a \$5 million signing bonus, an "insane" offer, according to the Vikings. Mitchell started seven games in relief of the injured Dan Marino last year, and the Dolphins lost the last three to fall out of the playoff picture.

Obviously, Fontes is tying his future directly to his quarterback, which he figures has been the missing link in his team's quest for consistent success. The feeling in Detroit is that Kra-

mer was just along for the ride when the Lions won in 1991 and '93. All the other parts, they think, are now tuned and ready. If the quarterback delivers, the Lions can take the next step on the road to the Super Bowl. To relieve some pressure on Mitchell, the Lions added veteran David Krieg from the Kansas City Chiefs as a backup in the final admission they have given up on both Rodney Peete and Andre Ware.

"I told Wayne, and he agrees, that while we were pleased to have won the NFC Central Division championship, it's time to move to the next level," said owner William Clay Ford.

Fontes is fourth in NFL tenure with the same team, behind only Miami's Don Shula, New Orleans's Jim Mora, and Buffalo's Marv Levy. What he won't have going for him in 1994 is the fifth-place schedule that helped him win last year. In fact, based on last year's results, the Lions have the toughest schedule in the NFC. Nobody plays more games against plus-.500 teams (9) and playoff teams (8).

Mitchell's \$5 million signing bonus will buy a lot of comfort, but it will no doubt cause problems as well. Rescuing Dan Marino is one level of job responsibility; carrying a team to the Super Bowl on demand is another. First, Mitchell must win the division just to get even with Kramer. Mitchell's numbers were impressive last year as he threw 12 touchdown passes and eight interceptions in his eight appearances. Four of those picks came in his final game against the Patriots.

SCOTT MITCHELL

To make certain Mitchell would have prime targets, the Lions passed up more pressing defensive needs to select wide receiver Johnnie Morton of USC in the first round. They also re-signed Brett Perriman. Herman Moore is the No. 1 receiver. His average per catch of 15.3 yards was third in the league behind Irving Fryar and Henry Ellard among all receivers with at least 60 catches. Willie Green can be a factor. Morton must adjust to the big time faster than his former USC teammate Curtis Conway did with Chicago.

After Fontes fired offensive coordinator Dan Henning and replaced him with Dave Levy with a month to go last season, the Lions won three of their last four with Kramer and without

Barry Sanders to grab the division and home field before losing with Sanders in the first round to the Packers. Levy remains in charge and will continue to run a more conventional offense than the run-and-shoot, which Henning was phasing out. Signing tight end Ron Hall from the Bucs was the first sign of this.

The outstanding showing of running backs Derrick Moore and Eric Lynch during the five games Sanders sat out with a knee injury opens the possibility for more two-back sets, or at least for some rest for Sanders, who became the third running back to surpass 1,000 yards in each of his first five seasons. (The first two were Tony Dorsett and Eric Dickerson.) Sanders exploded for 169 yards against the Packers in the playoffs after his five-game absence, allaying fears of any lingering effects.

The offensive line is again ready for some tinkering, with backup guards Shawn Bouwens and Mike Compton both pushing for starting jobs held last season by former free agents Dave Richards and Bill Fralic. Another 1993 free agent, Dave Lutz, will get competition from Larry Tharpe at right tackle. Left tackle Lomas Brown, nagged by injuries a year ago, is looking for a return to Pro Bowl form, while center Kevin Glover is developing into Pro Bowl consideration. Draftee Tony Sample joins Scott Conover and long snapper Mark Rodenhauser as backups.

Five of Fontes's seven draft picks were on defense and two free-agent signees were starters elsewhere: cornerback Robert Massey (Cardinals) and linebacker Mike Johnson (Browns). They will replace lost free agents Ray Crockett (Broncos) and Dennis Gibson (Chargers). Linebacker Pat Swilling improved the speed of the front seven when he arrived from the Saints last year. He registered 6½ sacks and led the team with three interceptions. Left end Robert Porcher led the club with 8½ sacks and is ready for a breakthrough season. He is joined up front by converted end Marc Spindler at nose tackle and a former No. 1 draft choice, Kelvin Pritchett, who has yet to live up to his billing. Dan Owens is a veteran backup and Tennessee's Shane Bonham was drafted to help.

Swilling upgraded the linebacking, where George Jamison finished up on the left side. Tracy Scroggins, who had eight sacks, and Tracy Hayworth saw playing time mainly as rushers. Middle linebacker Chris Spielman led

the team in tackles for the sixth year and was the defensive MVP for his relentless leadership. Johnson was dumped by Cleveland after a subpar season, but he has talent. Victor Jones and Toby Caston are backups.

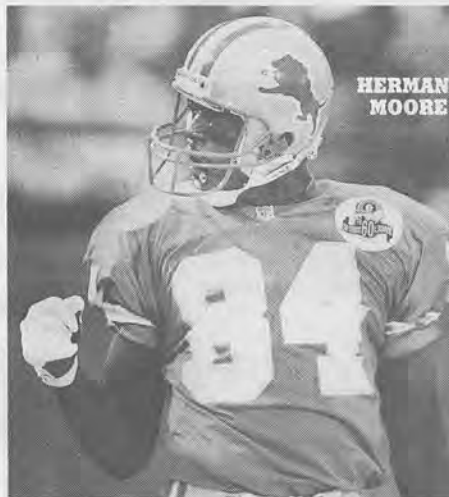
Trouble looms deep, where it left off when the Packers' Sterling Sharpe ran past cornerback Kevin Scott for the winning touchdown in the playoffs. Three of the Lions' six draft choices were defensive backs, but second-round pick Van Malone is strictly a safety and later picks Vaughn Bryant and Jocelyn Borgella are corners without great speed. That leaves last year's top pick, Ryan McNeil, on

the spot to produce along with ex-Cardinal Massey. Fontes hopes Bennie Blades is recovered from a compound leg fracture to resume his intimidating play at free safety. If not, the solid William White at strong safety will need help from Malone and reserves Harry Colon and Willie Clay.

After a fight to retain him, the Lions lost outstanding special-teams' coach Frank Gansz to the Falcons. Punter Jim Arnold signed with Miami, but Mel Gray still looks like he can return kicks at age 33 and Jason Hanson is among the few who won't be bothered by kicking off from the 30-yard line.



MEL GRAY



HERMAN MOORE



ROBERT PORCHER

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
43	Anderson, Gary	RB	6-1	190	33	Arkansas
72	Balister, Raymond	G	6-4	305	23	NE Louisiana
36	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	221	28	Miami
66	Bouwens, Shawn	OG	6-4	290	26	Neb.-Wesleyan
70	Brown, Ernie	DE	6-2	260	23	Syracuse
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	287	31	Florida
68	Burton, Leonard	C	6-3	275	30	South Carolina
50	Caston, Toby	LB	6-1	243	29	LSU
32	Clay, Willie	CB	5-9	184	24	Georgia Tech
21	Colon, Harry	S	6-0	203	25	Missouri
77	Compton, Mike	C/G	6-6	297	24	West Virginia
76	Conover, Scott	T	6-4	285	26	Purdue
53	Glover, Kevin	C	6-2	282	31	Maryland
23	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	171	33	Purdue
18	Green, Eric	WR	5-10	170	23	Illinois Benedictine
86	Green, Willie	WR	6-2	181	26	Mississippi
89	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	245	30	Hawaii
49	Hallock, Ty	TE	6-3	249	23	Michigan State
4	Hanson, Jason	K	5-11	183	24	Washington State
99	Hayworth, Tracy	LB	6-3	280	27	Tennessee
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	34	Tulane
58	Jamison, George	LB	6-1	235	32	Cincinnati
25	Jeffries, Greg	CB	5-9	184	23	Virginia
51	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	230	32	Virginia Tech
61	Jones, Jason	G	6-3	282	24	Hampton Institute
57	Jones, Victor	LB	6-2	250	28	Virginia Tech
52	Kowalkowski, Scott	LB	6-2	228	26	Notre Dame
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	202	36	Milton
55	London, Antonio	LB	6-2	234	23	Alabama
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	217	31	Iowa
73	Lutz, David	G/T	6-6	305	35	Georgia Tech
26	Lynch, Eric	RB	5-10	224	24	Grand Valley St.
40	Massey, Robert	CB	5-11	195	27	N.C. Central
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	32	Delta State
33	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	174	31	Texas-Arlington
47	McNeil, Ryan	CB	6-1	187	24	Miami
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB	6-6	230	26	Utah
31	Moore, Derrick	RB	6-1	227	27	NE Oklahoma St.
84	Moore, Herman	WR	6-3	210	25	Virginia
90	Owens, Dan	DE	6-3	280	27	USC
80	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	29	Miami
96	Pete, Lawrence	NT	6-0	275	28	Nebraska
91	Porcher, Robert	DE	6-3	283	26	S.C. State
34	Powers, Ricky	RB	6-0	205	23	Michigan
94	Pritchett, Kelvin	DE	6-2	281	25	Mississippi
67	Richards, Dave	G	6-5	310	28	UCLA
48	Roberts, Ray	TE	6-2	251	23	Northern Illinois
63	Rodenhauser, Mark	C	6-5	280	33	Illinois State
42	Ryans, Larry	WR	5-11	182	23	Clemson
20	Sanders, Barry	RB	5-8	203	26	Oklahoma State
38	Scott, Kevin	CB	5-9	175	25	Stanford
59	Scroggins, Tracy	LB	6-2	255	25	Tulsa
54	Spielman, Chris	LB	6-0	247	29	Ohio State
93	Spindler, Marc	DE	6-5	290	25	Pittsburgh
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	30	Georgia Tech
71	Tharpe, Larry	T	6-4	299	24	Tennessee State
81	Thompson, Marty	TE	6-3	243	25	Fresno State
92	Travis, Mack	NT	6-1	280	24	California
11	Ware, Andre	QB	6-2	205	26	Houston
35	White, William	S	5-10	191	28	Ohio State
64	Wilson, James	DE	6-3	253	24	Tennessee
44	Woodley, Richard	WR	5-9	180	22	TCU

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Morton, Johnnie	WR	6-0	189	USC
2	Malone, Van	DB	5-11	190	Texas
3	Bonham, Shane	DT	6-4	260	Tennessee
4	Bryant, Vaughn	DB	5-11	180	Stanford
5	Sample, Tony	G	6-4	287	Memphis State
6	Borgella, Jocelyn	DB	5-10	179	Cincinnati
7	Beer, Thomas	LB	6-1	239	Wayne State



CRAIG ERICKSON

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Trent Dilfer was the obvious choice for the Buccaneers to draft. The young quarterback from Fresno State immediately proclaimed himself lucky to get the opportunity to be tutored by Bucs coach Sam Wyche, who has plenty of experience at such things. Wyche looked happy to get him, too, but you have to wonder: Does Wyche have the luxury of time to develop another young quarterback? You also have to wonder: Will this create more problems than it solves? Upon selecting Dilfer, Wyche immediately proclaimed satisfaction with the incumbent, young Craig Erickson. As usual, the signals are mixed in Tampa Bay. After back-to-back 5-11 seasons, the Bucs thought they were finally on the right track at the most important position.

"There's no question Erickson is our starter. We can go to the playoffs with Craig Erickson," Wyche said. "We are not looking for a quarterback."

So where does Dilfer fit? On the bench, probably, until the Bucs lose a game or two or three. Then the impatience will surface and Dilfer's name will be chanted and Wyche will have to keep making decisions about one position he didn't think required attention.

Instead of plugging a leak at a spot where the need is more obvious, the Bucs had to wait until the second round to start their draft. There, they felt really lucky to land running back Errict Rhett, who broke some of Emmitt Smith's records at Florida. Rhett also carries a stigma for being too slow. Come to think of it,

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that's another trait he shares with Smith, who was never considered a burner. Rhett's presence follows the exit of free agent Reggie Cobb to the Packers.

The Bucs figure their latest 5-11 record is more promising than the 5-11 record of 1992. "Our division was the most improved in football with three playoff teams. Yet by the end of the season, I don't think our team was taking a

back seat to any of them. We are looking forward to competing for the division title," Wyche said. The Bucs beat the Lions, Vikings, and Broncos—all '93 playoff teams—and barely lost to the Packers and Raiders in the last six weeks of the season while those teams made their playoff push. This year, the Bucs get the notoriously weak fifth-place schedule, but that is familiar territory that hasn't necessarily helped them. Their schedule is the weakest in the league, according to last season's won-lost records.

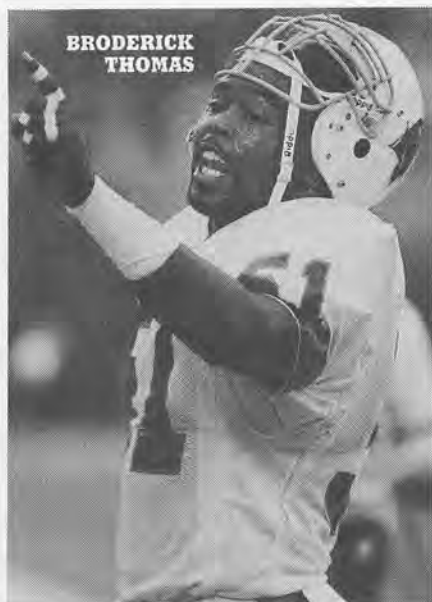
Assuming Erickson is the starter for game one, Wyche does have a quarterback he likes. Although he finished 24th in the league in passer rating in his first season as a starter, Erickson was 11th in yardage (3,054) and sixth in touchdown passes (18). His problem was interceptions (21), something Wyche thinks he can control. "He studies like no quarterback I've ever been around, he competes on the field, and he throws with strength and accuracy," Wyche said. Casey Weldon will show Dilfer how to carry the clipboard while Erickson plays.

Rhett must make a more immediate impact than Dilfer if the Bucs are to rebound from the loss of Cobb. Hampered by a knee injury for part of last season, Cobb wasn't the same back who gained 1,100 yards in 1992, but he wasn't a rookie either. Vince Workman will get the first shot at winning the starting spot, but neither Workman nor Rhett is the breakaway type. Neither was Cobb, though. Rudy Harris, Anthony McDowell, and converted receiver

Vernon Turner are also in the running at full-back, with Workman. The Bucs finished 27th in rushing last year.

Receiving is less of a problem. The Bucs got a gem in Horace Copeland, a fourth-round rookie who played like a first-rounder and gave Erickson a legitimate deep threat. Only the Raiders' James Jett (23.4) and the Cowboys' Alvin Harper (21.6) had bigger averages than Copeland (21.1) for receivers who caught at least 30 passes. With Lawrence Dawsey out with a knee injury, Courtney Hawkins developed into a good third-down receiver to complement Copeland. Hawkins led the club with 62 catches and five touchdowns, and the competition will be interesting when Dawsey returns. Lamar Thomas is a capable backup. At tight end, the Bucs lost Ron Hall to Detroit after a subpar year and drafted LSU's Harold Bishop to compete with Tyji Armstrong and Dave Moore.

Protecting Erickson is a priority, but the Bucs got better after the fifth game when left tackle Paul Gruber returned from a contract impasse. If he picks up where he left off, he will return to Pro Bowl consideration. Before his contract problem, Gruber had played for 4,850 consecutive snaps, not missing a single play for the five years he had been in the league. Center Tony Mayberry has a 48-game streak going and versatile right tackle Scott Dill started every game last season. Dill also played left tackle and left guard, starting five straight games at one stretch never in the same spot as the week before. The Bucs



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signed right tackle Tim Irwin from the Vikings. They drafted tackle Pete Pierson and center Jim Pyne to compete for jobs and re-signed right guard Ian Beckles. They would like former first-round pick Charles McRae to beat out left guard Bruce Reimers or to win a job somewhere. Rob Taylor is a veteran tackle.

Middle linebacker Hardy Nickerson arrived from Pittsburgh last year and tried to teach the Bucs how to play defense. He won all kinds of accolades and awards and made an aston-

ishing 124 tackles. But the Bucs still finished 22nd on defense in a division where nobody else finished lower than sixth and they drafted only one defensive player, linebacker Bernard Carter in the fifth round. They hope Demetrius DuBose is ready to play at outside linebacker with Lonnie Marts (Chiefs). The future of Broderick Thomas is in doubt. Darrick Brownlow and Ed Brady are backups.

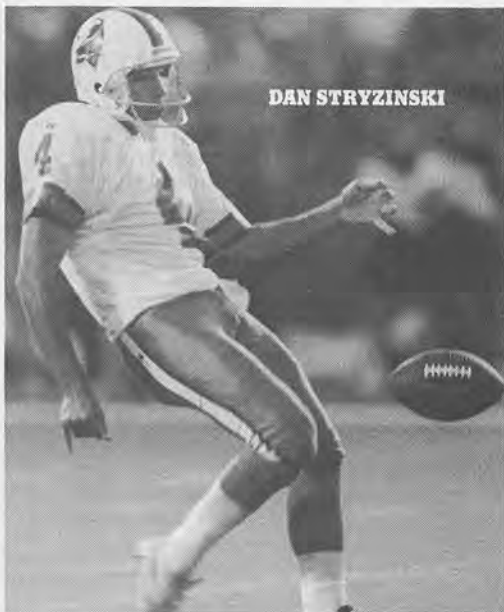
The Bucs lost end Ray Seals, their leading sacker (8), to Pittsburgh this year. Eric Curry had five sacks in his first 10 games before a knee injury ended his rookie season. Teamed with young tackles Santana Dotson and Mark Wheeler, Curry forms the nucleus of a promising front, but replacing Seals with Shawn Price or Chidi Ahanotu will be difficult.

The Bucs traded for Dallas's Thomas Everett but lost free-agent cornerback Ricky Reynolds (Patriots), leaving them in a bind in the secondary. Everett joins Marty Carter at the safety spots with Martin Mayhew moving to

left corner and Milton Mack and ex-Colt Tony Stargell vying for the job on the right corner. The Bucs play a 4-2-5 alignment with Barney Bussey as the rover. John Lynch could help. Rogerick Green is a fast backup and Roger Jones a nickel corner. Tony Covington is a reserve safety.

Dan Stryzinski is the punter and Michael Husted capped a good rookie year with a 57-yard field goal. Turner looks like the kick- and punt-return man.

DAN STRYZINSKI



TRENT DILFER



ERRICK RHETT



Jay Metz

1993 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Husted, 75 points on 27 extra points and 16 field goals...13th

RUSHING—Cobb, 658 yards on 221 carries, 3.0 avg., 3 TDs...11th

PASSING—Erickson, 233 of 457 attempts for 3,054 yards and 18 TDs...12th

RECEIVING—Hawkins, 62 receptions for 933 yards, 15.0 avg., 5 TDs...12th

INTERCEPTIONS—King, 3 for 29 yards, 9.7 average...15th

PUNTING—Stryzinski, 93 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 57 yards...12th

PUNT RETURNS—Anderson, 17 for 113 yards, 6.6 average...unranked

KICKOFF RETURNS—Wilson, 23 for 454 yards, 19.7 average...12th

SACKS—Seals, 8.5 sacks...18th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	CINCINNATI (N)
	13	At Seattle (N)
	20	At Miami (N)
	26	N.Y. JETS (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	At Chicago	17-47
	11	INDIANAPOLIS	—
	18	NEW ORLEANS	—
	25	At Green Bay	10-13
October	2	DETROIT	27-10
	9	At Atlanta	31-24
	16	OPEN DATE	—
	23	At San Francisco	21-45
	30	MINNESOTA	23-10
November	6	CHICAGO	13-10
	13	At Detroit (N)	0-23
	20	At Seattle	—
	27	At Minnesota	0-15
December	4	WASHINGTON	17-23
	11	L.A. RAMS	—
	18	At Washington	—
	24	GREEN BAY	14-27

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
73	Adams, Theo	OL	6-4	300	28	Hawaii
72	Ahanotu, Chidi	DL	6-2	280	24	California
2	Allison, Joe	PK	6-0	185	23	Memphis St.
44	Anderson, Darren	CB	5-10	180	25	Toledo
96	Armstrong, Tyji	TE	6-4	250	24	Mississippi
62	Beckles, Ian	G	6-1	295	27	Indiana
53	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	32	Illinois
55	Brownlow, Darrick	LB	6-0	240	26	Illinois
28	Buckley, Curtis	DB	6-0	185	24	East Texas
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	210	32	S.C. State
23	Carter, Marty	S	6-1	200	25	Middle Tenn. St.
89	Collins, Shawn	WR	6-2	205	27	N. Arizona
88	Copeland, Horace	WR	6-2	195	23	Miami
25	Covington, Tony	S	5-11	195	27	Virginia
68	Crisman, Joel	G	6-5	290	23	USC
75	Curry, Eric	DE	6-5	270	24	Alabama
1	Davis, Tyree	WR	5-9	165	24	Central Arkansas
80	Dawsey, Lawrence	WR	6-0	195	27	Florida St.
76	Dill, Scott	OL	6-5	290	28	Memphis St.
71	Dotson, Santana	DL	6-5	270	25	Baylor
93	DuBose, Demetrius	LB	6-1	240	23	Notre Dame
7	Erickson, Craig	QB	6-2	205	25	Miami
22	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	185	30	Baylor
20	Gray, Jerry	S	6-0	195	32	Texas
26	Green, Rogerick	CB	5-10	185	25	Kansas St.
74	Gruber, Paul	T	6-5	290	29	Wisconsin
40	Hadnot, Bulch	RB	6-1	230	24	Texas
91	Hall, Rhett	DL	6-2	270	26	California
43	Harris, Rudy	FB	6-1	255	23	Clemson
85	Hawkins, Courtney	WR	5-9	180	25	Michigan St.
95	Hill, Tony	DE	6-6	255	26	UT-Chattanooga
16	Holstein, Scott	P	6-5	210	23	LSU
90	Hunter, Jeff	DE	6-4	290	28	Albany St.
5	Husted, Michael	K	6-0	190	24	Virginia
78	Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	300	36	Tennessee
24	Jones, Roger	CB	5-9	175	25	Tennessee St.
41	King, Joe	S	6-2	195	26	Oklahoma St.
49	Kronenberg, Bob	C	6-3	275	23	St. Cloud St.
79	Love, Sean	G	6-3	290	26	Penn St.
47	Lynch, John	S	6-2	220	23	Stanford
21	Mack, Milton	CB	5-11	195	31	Alcorn St.
97	Marts, Lonnie	LB	6-1	230	26	Tulane
61	Mayberry, Tony	C	6-4	290	27	Wake Forest
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	175	29	Florida St.
33	McDowell, Anthony	FB	5-11	235	26	Texas Tech
70	McRae, Charles	T	6-7	300	26	Tennessee
83	Moore, Dave	TE	6-2	245	25	Pittsburgh
56	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	230	29	California
36	Paul, Markus	S	6-2	200	28	Syracuse
92	Price, Shawn	DL	6-5	260	24	Pacific
66	Reimers, Bruce	G	6-7	300	34	Iowa St.
31	Royster, Mazio	RB	6-1	200	24	USC
64	Ryan, Tim	G	6-2	280	26	Notre Dame
48	Saunders, Cedric	TE	6-3	240	22	Ohio St.
17	Small, Eddie	WR	6-1	200	22	Mississippi
29	Stargell, Tony	DB	5-11	190	28	Tennessee St.
4	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6-1	195	29	Indiana
67	Sullivan, Mike	OL	6-3	290	27	Miami
51	Thomas, Broderick	LB	6-4	250	27	Nebraska
87	Thomas, Lamar	WR	6-1	170	24	Miami
94	Trumbull, Rick	OL	6-6	300	27	Missouri
30	Turner, Vernon	WR	5-8	185	27	Carson-Newman
13	Vlasic, Mark	QB	6-3	205	31	Iowa
11	Weldon, Casey	QB	6-1	200	26	Florida St.
77	Wheeler, Mark	DL	6-2	280	24	Texas A&M
54	Williams, Jimmy	LB	6-3	230	34	Nebraska
96	Wilson, Bernard	DL	6-2	295	24	Tennessee St.
84	Wilson, Charles	WR	5-10	185	26	Memphis St.
99	Winter, Blaise	DL	6-4	295	32	Syracuse
46	Workman, Vince	RB	5-10	205	26	Ohio St.

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Dilfer, Trent	QB	6-3	228	Fresno State
2	Rhett, Errick	RB	5-11	211	Florida
3	Bishop, Harold	TE	6-6	260	Louisiana State
5	Pierson, Pete	OT	6-5	279	Washington
5	Carter, Bernard	LB	6-3	248	East Carolina
7	Pyne, Jim	C	6-2	274	Virginia Tech

PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

1993 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	376	229
New York	11	5	0	.688	288	205
Philadelphia	8	8	0	.500	293	315
Phoenix	7	9	0	.438	326	269
Washington	4	12	0	.250	230	345
Central Division						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	6	0	.625	298	292
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	277	290
Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	340	282
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	234	230
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	237	376

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	473	295
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	317	343
Atlanta	6	10	0	.375	316	385
Los Angeles	5	11	0	.313	221	367

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Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	12	4	0	.750	329	242
Miami	9	7	0	.563	349	351
New York	8	8	0	.500	270	247
New England	5	11	0	.313	238	286
Indianapolis	4	12	0	.250	189	378

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	12	4	0	.750	368	238
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	308	281
Cleveland	7	9	0	.438	304	307
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	187	319

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	328	291
Los Angeles	10	6	0	.625	306	326
Denver	9	7	0	.563	373	284
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	322	290
Seattle	6	10	0	.375	280	314

FIRST ROUND GAMES

Green Bay 28, Detroit 24
New York 17, Minnesota 10
Kansas City 27, Pittsburgh 24 (OT)
Los Angeles 42, Denver 24

SECOND ROUND GAMES

San Francisco 44, New York 3
Dallas 27, Green Bay 17
Buffalo 29, Los Angeles 23
Kansas City 28, Houston 20

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas 38, San Francisco 21
Buffalo 30, Kansas City 13

SUPER BOWL XXVIII

Dallas 30, Buffalo 13

NFC WILD CARD GAME

At Pontiac, MI, January 8, 1994

Green Bay	0	7	14	7	-28
Detroit	3	7	7	7	-24

Scoring

Detroit: FG Hanson 47, 15:00 1st
Green Bay: Sharpe 12 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 7:04 2nd
Detroit: Perriman 1 pass from Kramer (Hanson kick), 12:56 2nd
Detroit: Jenkins 15 interception return (Hanson kick), 6:40 3rd
Green Bay: Sharpe 28 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 10:25 3rd
Green Bay: Teague 101 interception return (Jacke kick), 13:20 3rd
Detroit: D. Moore 5 run (Hanson kick), 6:33 4th
Green Bay: Sharpe, 40 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 14:05 4th
Attendance: 68,479

Team Statistics

	Green Bay	Detroit
Points	28	24
Rushing yards	89	175
Passing yards	204	235
Return yards	233	101
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	4-13
Punts	4-40	3-48
Third downs	4-10	6-11
Fourth downs	0-0	0-1
Time of possession	24:26	35:34

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Green Bay, Thompson 12-41, E. Bennett 9-30, Favre 4-18; Detroit, Sanders 27-169, D. Moore 1-5, Kramer 1-1
Passing: Green Bay, Favre 15-26-1-204; Detroit, Kramer 22-31-2-248
Receiving: Green Bay, Sharpe 5-101, West 3-40, Thompson 3-32, E. Bennett 2-21, Clayton 1-9, Brooks 1-1; Detroit, Perriman 10-150, D. Moore 4-14, Holman 3-31, Green 2-33, Sanders 2-0, H. Moore 1-20
Interceptions: Green Bay, Teague 1-101, Buckley 1-0; Detroit, Jenkins 1-15
Sacks: Green Bay, White 2, T. Bennett 1½, Holland ½
Missed Field Goals: None

AFC WILD CARD GAME

At Kansas City, MO, January 8, 1994

Pittsburgh	7	10	0	7	-24
Kansas City	7	0	3	14	-27

Scoring

Pittsburgh: Cooper 10 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick), 6:15 1st
Kansas City: Birden 23 pass from Krieg (Lowery kick), 13:21 1st
Pittsburgh: FG Anderson 30, 5:26 2nd
Pittsburgh: Mills 26 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick), 14:42 2nd
Kansas City: FG Lowery 23, 13:51 3rd
Kansas City: Allen 2 run (Lowery kick), 6:02 4th

Pittsburgh: Green 22 pass from O'Donnell (Anderson kick), 10:49 4th
Kansas City: Barnett 7 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 13:17 4th
Kansas City: FG Lowery 32, 11:03 OT
Attendance: 74,515

Team Statistics

	Pittsburgh	Kansas City
Points	24	27
Rushing yards	97	125
Passing yards	276	276
Return yards	115	163
Sacked-yards lost	3-10	4-23
Punts	7-38	6-45
Third downs	9-19	4-13
Fourth downs	1-2	1-2
Time of possession	34:58	36:05

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Pittsburgh, L. Thompson 25-60, Hoge 6-27, Stone 3-11, O'Donnell 1-minus 1; Kansas City, Allen 21-67, Anders 5-27, Montana 4-13, McNair 2-9, Jones 1-9
Passing: Pittsburgh, O'Donnell 23-42-0-286; Kansas City, Montana 28-43-0-276, Krieg 1-1-0-23
Receiving: Pittsburgh, Graham 7-96, Mills 4-60, Hoge 3-43, Stone 3-36, L. Thompson 3-4, E. Green 2-37, Cooper 1-10; Kansas City, Cash 7-56, Birden 6-72, Allen 4-29, Anders 3-30, Barnett 3-30, Davis 2-47, Hayes 2-11, Hughes 1-15, McNair 1-9
Interceptions: None
Sacks: Pittsburgh, G. Williams 3, Lloyd 1; Kansas City, Smith 2, Bayless 1
Missed Field Goals: Kansas City, Lowery 43

NFC WILD CARD GAME

At East Rutherford, NJ, January 9, 1994

Minnesota	0	10	0	0	-10
New York	3	0	14	0	-17

Scoring

New York: FG Treadwell 26, 6:25 1st
Minnesota: C. Carter 40 pass from McMahon (Reveiz kick), 13:07 2nd
Minnesota: FG Reveiz 52, 14:58 2nd
New York: Hampton 51 run (Treadwell kick), 2:54 3rd
New York: Hampton 2 run (Treadwell kick), 9:23
Attendance: 75,089

Team Statistics

	Minnesota	New York
Points	10	17
Rushing yards	79	176
Passing yards	181	94
Return yards	69	17
Sacked-yards lost	3-11	0-0
Punts	8-38	7-32
Third downs	2-13	7-17
Fourth downs	0-2	1-1
Time of possession	24:37	35:23

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Minnesota, Graham 19-69, McMahon 1-5, A. Carter 1-4, Craig 1-1; New York, Hampton 33-161, Simms 4-14, Bunch 1-1, Jackson 1-1, Tillman 2-minus 1
Passing: Minnesota, McMahon 12-25-0-145, Salisbury 3-9-0-47; New York, Simms 17-26-0-94
Receiving: Minnesota, C. Carter 4-83, Jordan 4-31, A. Carter 2-37, Graham 2-19, Reed 2-16, Ismail 1-6; New York, Hampton 6-24, Meggett 4-12, Calloway 2-30, Cross 2-11, M. Jackson 2-9, Pierce 1-8
Interceptions: None
Sacks: New York, Hamilton 2, Fox 1
Missed Field Goals: New York, Treadwell 34

PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

AFC WILD CARD GAME

At Los Angeles, CA, January 9, 1994

Denver	7	14	0	3	-24
Los Angeles	14	7	14	7	-42

Scoring

Los Angeles: Horton 9 pass from Hostetler (Jaeger kick), 5:34 1st
 Denver: Sharpe 23 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 8:48
 Los Angeles: T. Brown 65 pass from Hostetler (Jaeger kick), 12:35 1st
 Denver: R. Johnson 16 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 4:54 2nd
 Los Angeles: Jett 54 pass from Hostetler (Jaeger kick), 7:32 2nd
 Denver: Russell 6 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 14:28 2nd
 Los Angeles: McCallum 26 run (Jaeger kick), 6:52 3rd
 Los Angeles: McCallum 2 run (Jaeger kick), 10:33 3rd
 Denver: FG Elam 33, 2:24 4th
 Los Angeles: McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick), 8:17 4th
 Attendance: 65,314

Team Statistics

	Denver	Los Angeles
Points	24	42
Rushing yards	56	136
Passing yards	331	291
Return yards	123	56
Sacked-yards lost	1-5	2-3
Punts	4-34	4-43
Third downs	4-14	5-9
Fourth downs	2-4	0-0
Time of possession	31:09	28:51

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Denver, Delpino 9-32, Elway 5-23, Rivers 1-2, Maddox 1-1, Milburn 2-minus 2; Los Angeles, McCallum 13-81, Montgomery 15-50, Hostetler 4-5
Passing: Denver, Elway 29-47-1-302, Maddox 3-7-0-34; Los Angeles, Hostetler 13-19-0-294
Receiving: Denver, Sharpe 13-156, Marshall 5-69, Milburn 5-8, Russell 2-31, Tillman 2-25, R. Johnson 2-19, K. Taylor 1-13, Rivers 1-8, Evans 1-7; Los Angeles Jett 3-111, Brown 3-86, Horton 3-45, Montgomery 3-29, Wright 1-23
Interceptions: Los Angeles, Dorn 1-1
Sacks: Denver, Fletcher 2; Los Angeles, A. Smith 1
Missed Field Goals: None

NFC SECOND ROUND GAME

At San Francisco, CA, January 15, 1994

New York	0	3	0	0	-3
San Francisco	9	14	14	7	-44

Scoring

San Francisco: Watters 1 run (kick failed), 4:27 1st
 San Francisco: FG Cofer 29, 10:07 1st
 San Francisco: Watters 1 run (Cofer kick), :02 2nd
 San Francisco: Watters 2 run (Cofer kick), 10:57 2nd
 New York: FG Treadwell 25, 15:00 2nd
 San Francisco: Watters 6 run (Cofer kick), 7:22 3rd
 San Francisco: Watters 2 run (Cofer kick), 13:51 3rd
 San Francisco: Logan 2 run (Cofer kick), 2:34 4th
 Attendance: 67,143

Team Statistics

	New York	San Francisco
Points	3	44
Rushing yards	41	178
Passing yards	153	235
Return yards	108	60
Sacked-yards lost	4-27	1-6
Punts	5-40	3-45
Third downs	2-12	5-11
Fourth downs	1-4	0-1
Time of possession	25:15	34:45

Individual Statistics

Rushing: New York, Hampton 7-12, Brown 1-8, Tillman 4-8, Bunch 2-5, Meggett 2-5, Simms 2-3, M. Jackson 1-0; San Francisco, Watters 24-118, Logan 9-40, Young 3-17, Rathman 2-7, Lee 1-5, Rice 1-minus 9
Passing: New York, Simms 12-25-2-124, Brown 6-10-1-56; San Francisco, Young 17-22-0-226, Bono 2-2-0-15
Receiving: New York, McCaffrey 5-59, Meggett 3-17, Cross 2-32, Calloway 2-24, M. Jackson 2-16, Hampton 2-11, Tillman 1-14, Pierce 1-7; San Francisco, Watters 5-46, Jones 4-39, Rice 3-43, Taylor 2-74, Rathman 2-16, Lee 2-15, Logan 1-8
Interceptions: San Francisco, Caldwell 1-13, Davis 1-4, McDonald 1-4
Sacks: New York, Hamilton ½, McGhee ½; San Francisco, Stubblefield 2, T. Wilson 1, Washington ½, Walter ½
Missed Field Goals: None

AFC SECOND ROUND GAME

At Orchard Park, NY, January 15, 1994

Los Angeles	0	17	6	0	-23
Buffalo	0	13	9	7	-29

Scoring

Los Angeles: FG Jaeger 30, 1:13 2nd
 Buffalo: K. Davis 1 run (kick failed), 1:30 2nd
 Los Angeles: McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick), 6:50 2nd
 Los Angeles: McCallum 1 run (Jaeger kick), 13:03 2nd
 Buffalo: T. Thomas 8 run (Christie kick), 14:10 2nd
 Buffalo: Brooks 25 pass from Kelly (kick failed), 11:37 3rd
 Buffalo: FG Christie 29, 14:01 3rd
 Los Angeles: T. Brown 86 pass from Hostetler (kick failed), 14:30 3rd
 Buffalo: Brooks 22 pass from Kelly (Christie kick), 2:55 4th
 Attendance: 61,923

Team Statistics

	Los Angeles	Buffalo
Points	23	29
Rushing yards	110	75
Passing yards	215	280
Return yards	90	118
Sacked-yards lost	2-15	3-7
Punts	6-37	3-36
Third downs	2-11	7-14
Fourth downs	1-1	0-1
Time of possession	32:57	27:03

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Los Angeles, McCallum 19-56, Hostetler 5-29, Montgomery 9-22, Bell 2-3; Buffalo T. Thomas 14-44, K. Davis 11-36, Kelly 5-minus 5
Passing: Los Angeles, Hostetler 14-20-0-230; Buffalo, Kelly 27-37-0-287
Receiving: Los Angeles, T. Brown 5-127, Montgomery 3-26, Horton 2-42, McCallum 1-15, Bell 1-2, Duff 1-5, Jett 1-3; Buffalo, Brooks 6-96, T. Thomas 6-48, Metzelaars 5-43, Reed 4-53, McKeller 3-21, K. Davis 1-16, Beebe 1-9, Gardner 1-1
Interceptions: None
Sacks: Los Angeles, M. Jones 1, A. Smith 1, Long 1; Buffalo B. Smith 2
Missed Field Goals: Los Angeles, Jaeger 47, Buffalo, Christie 43

NFC SECOND ROUND GAME

At Irving, TX, January 16, 1994

Green Bay	3	0	7	7	-17
Dallas	0	17	7	3	-27

Scoring

Green Bay: FG Jacke 30, 11:40 1st
 Dallas: Harper 25 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 5:53 2nd
 Dallas: FG Murray 41, 14:37 2nd
 Dallas: Novacek 6 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 14:55 2nd
 Dallas: Irvin 19 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 9:05 3rd
 Green Bay: Brooks 13 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 13:28 3rd
 Dallas: FG Murray 38, 7:22 4th
 Green Bay: Sharpe 29 pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 14:38 4th
 Attendance: 64,790

Team Statistics

	Green Bay	Dallas
Points	17	27
Rushing yards	31	97
Passing yards	327	284
Return yards	143	53
Sacked-yards lost	2-4	4-18
Punts	3-39	3-44
Third downs	6-14	6-13
Fourth downs	1-3	0-1
Time of possession	25:28	34:32

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Green Bay, Thompson 7-28, E. Bennett 6-3, Dallas, E. Smith 13-60, Coleman 5-19, Johnston 3-12, Lassic 2-6, Aikman 3-0, Bates 1-0
Passing: Green Bay, Favre 28-45-2-331, Dallas, Aikman 28-37-2-302
Receiving: Green Bay, E. Bennett 9-53, Sharpe 6-128, West 4-41, Thompson 3-54, Brooks 3-39, Ingram 2-9, Lewis 1-7, Dallas, Irvin 9-126, Novacek 6-59, Johnston 6-43, Harper 2-33, E. Smith 2-27, Coleman 2-6, Lassic 1-8
Interceptions: Green Bay, Butler 1-14, Buckley 1-0; Dallas, Woodson 1-5, Haley 1-0
Sacks: Green Bay, T. Bennett 1½, Paup 1, Butler 1, Brock ½; Dallas, Tolbert 1, Jeffcoat 1
Missed Field Goals: Green Bay, Jacke 49

AFC SECOND ROUND GAME

At Houston, TX, January 16, 1994

Kansas City	0	0	7	21	-28
Houston	10	0	0	10	-20

Scoring

Houston: FG Del Greco 49, 3:50 1st
 Houston: G. Brown 2 run (Del Greco kick), 13:01 1st
 Kansas City: Cash 7 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 4:41 3rd
 Houston: FG Del Greco 43, 5:23 4th
 Kansas City: Birden 11 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 6:22 4th
 Kansas City: Davis 18 pass from Montana (Lowery kick), 7:16 4th
 Houston: Givins 7 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick), 11:15 4th
 Kansas City: Allen 21 run (Lowery kick), 13:05 4th
 Attendance: 64,011

Team Statistics

	Kansas City	Houston
Points	28	20
Rushing yards	71	39
Passing yards	283	238
Return yards	94	76
Sacked-yards lost	2-16	9-68
Punts	5-45	5-49

Third downs.....6-12.....7-15
Fourth downs.....0-1.....0-1
Time of possession.....24:18.....35:42

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Kansas City, Allen 14-74, Anders 1-0, Montana 1-minus 1, Krieg 2-minus 2; Houston, Moon 3-22, G. Brown 11-17
Passing: Kansas City, Montana 22-38-2-299, Krieg 0-0-0-0; Houston, Moon 32-43-1-306
Receiving: Kansas City, Birden 6-60, Davis 5-96, Cash 4-80, Barnett 2-24, McNair 2-9, Allen 1-12, Hayes 1-9, F. Jones 1-9; Houston, Jeffries 9-88, Givins 7-63, Wellman 6-80, Duncan 6-49, G. Brown 4-26
Interceptions: Kansas City, Mincy 1-12; Houston, Hoage 1-0, Jackson 1-14
Sacks: Kansas City, B. Thompson 2, Thomas 2, Phillips 2, A. Lewis 2, Smith 1; Houston, Lathon 1, Fuller 1
Missed Field Goals: None

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

At Irving, TX, January 23, 1994

San Francisco.....0.....7.....7.....7 —21
Dallas.....7.....21.....7.....3 —38

Scoring

Dallas: E. Smith 5 run (Murray kick), 6:19 1st
San Francisco: Rathman 7 pass from Young (Cofer kick), :05 2nd
Dallas: Johnston 4 run (Murray kick), 5:12 2nd
Dallas: E. Smith 11 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 8:56 2nd
Dallas: Novacek 19 pass from Aikman (Murray kick), 14:02 2nd
San Francisco: Watters 4 run (Cofer kick), 9:13 3rd
Dallas: Harper 42 pass from Kosar (Murray kick), 12:36 3rd
Dallas: FG Murray 50, 5:08 4th
San Francisco: Young 1 run (Cofer kick), 10:54 4th
Attendance: 64,902

Team Statistics

	San Francisco	Dallas
Points.....	21	38
Rushing yards.....	84	124
Passing yards.....	275	253
Return yards.....	95	49
Sacked-yards lost.....	4-12	2-7
Punts.....	4-46	4-41
Third downs.....	5-15	8-13
Fourth downs.....	1-2	0-0
Time of possession.....	26:27	33:33

Individual Statistics

Rushing: San Francisco, Young 7-38, Watters 12-37, Rathman 2-9; Dallas, E. Smith 23-88, Aikman 3-25, Johnston 4-13, Lassic 1-1, Kosar 2-minus 3
Passing: San Francisco, Young 27-45-1-287, Dallas, Aikman 14-18-0-177, Kosar 5-9-0-83, Harper 0-1-0-0
Receiving: San Francisco, Watters 7-33, Rice 6-83, Taylor 3-61, J. Williams 3-44, B. Jones 3-26, Logan 3-21, Turner 1-12, Rathman 1-7; Dallas, E. Smith 7-85, Harper 4-78, Novacek 4-57, Irvin 2-23, Johnston 2-17
Interceptions: Dallas, Everett 1-14
Sacks: San Francisco, Griffin 1, Brown 1; Dallas, Haley 1, Jeffcoat 1, Tolbert 1, Maryland 1
Missed Field Goals: None

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

At Orchard Park, NY, January 23, 1994

Kansas City.....6.....0.....7.....0 —13
Buffalo.....7.....13.....0.....10 —30

Scoring

Buffalo: T. Thomas 12 run (Christie kick), 8:11 1st
Kansas City: FG Lowery 31, 12:46 1st
Kansas City: FG Lowery 31, 14:21 1st
Buffalo: T. Thomas 3 run (Christie kick), 2:58 2nd
Buffalo: FG Christie 23, 7:56 2nd
Buffalo: FG Christie 25, 12:59 2nd
Kansas City: Allen 1 run (Lowery kick), 11:54 3rd
Buffalo: FG Christie 18, 3:05 4th
Buffalo: T. Thomas 3 run (Christie kick), 9:30 4th
Attendance: 76,642

Team Statistics

	Kansas City	Buffalo
Points.....	13	30
Rushing yards.....	52	229
Passing yards.....	286	160
Return yards.....	100	153
Sacked-yards lost.....	4-37	0-0
Punts.....	6-41	4-33
Third downs.....	7-17	5-12
Fourth downs.....	1-1	0-0
Time of possession.....	29:20	30:40

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Kansas City, Allen 18-50, Anders 2-1, Montana 1-1; Buffalo T. Thomas 33-186, K. Davis 10-32, Reed 1-8, Kelly 2-3
Passing: Kansas City, Montana 9-23-1-125, Krieg 16-29-1-198; Buffalo, Kelly 17-27-0-160
Receiving: Kansas City, Cash 6-87, W. Davis 5-57, Birden 4-60, Allen 2-36, McNair 2-33, Hayes 2-14, E. Thompson 1-12, Hughes 1-11, Anders 1-7, Szott 1-6; Buffalo, Reed 4-49, Brooks 4-34, Metzelaars 4-29, Thomas 2-22, Beebe 2-19, McKeller 1-7
Interceptions: Buffalo, Jones 1-15, Williams 1-0
Sacks: Buffalo, Smith 1, Wright 1, Hansen 1, Talley 1
Missed Field Goals: None

SUPER BOWL XXVIII

At Atlanta, GA, January 30, 1994

Dallas.....6.....0.....14.....10 —30
Buffalo.....3.....10.....0.....0 —13

Scoring

Dallas: FG Murray 41, 2:19 1st
Buffalo: FG Christie 54, 4:41 1st
Dallas: FG Murray 24, 11:05 1st
Buffalo: T. Thomas 4 run (Christie kick), 2:34 2nd
Buffalo: FG Christie 28, 15:00 2nd
Dallas: J. Washington 46 fumble return (Murray kick), :55 3rd
Dallas: E. Smith 15 run (Murray kick), 6:18 3rd
Dallas: E. Smith 1 run (Murray kick), 5:10 4th
Dallas: FG Murray 20, 12:10 4th
Attendance: 72, 817

Team Statistics

	Dallas	Buffalo
Points.....	30	13
Rushing yards.....	137	87
Passing yards.....	204	227
Return yards.....	89	190
Sacked-yards lost.....	2-3	3-33
Punts.....	4-44	5-38
Third downs.....	5-13	5-17
Fourth downs.....	1-1	2-3
Time of possession.....	34:29	25:31

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Dallas, E. Smith 30-132, K. Williams 1-6, Aikman 1-3, Johnston 1-0, Kosar 1-minus 1, Coleman 1-minus 1; Buffalo: K. Davis 9-38, T. Thomas 16-37, Kelly 2-12
Passing: Dallas, Aikman 19-27-1-207; Kelly 31-50-1-260
Receiving: Dallas, Irvin 5-66, Novacek 5-26, Smith 4-26, Harper 3-75, Johnston 2-14; Buffalo, Brooks 7-63, T. Thomas 7-52, Reed 6-75, Beebe 6-60, K. Davis 3-minus 5, Metzelaars 1-8, McKeller 1-7
Interceptions: Dallas, J. Washington 1-12; Buffalo, Odomes 1-41
Sacks: Dallas, Tolbert ½, Casillas ½, Haley ½, Jeffcoat 1½; Buffalo, Wright 2
Missed Field Goals: None

PAST SUPER BOWLS

1967...Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
1968...Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
1969...New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
1970...Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
1971...Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
1972...Dallas 24, Miami 3
1973...Miami 14, Washington 7
1974...Miami 24, Minnesota 7
1975...Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
1976...Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
1977...Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
1978...Dallas 27, Denver 10
1979...Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
1980...Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
1981...Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
1982...San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
1983...Washington 37, Miami 17
1984...Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9
1985...San Francisco 38, Miami 16
1986...Chicago 46, New England 10
1987...New York Giants 39, Denver 20
1988...Washington 42, Denver 10
1989...San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16
1990...San Francisco 55, Denver 10
1991...New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19
1992...Washington 37, Buffalo 24
1993...Dallas 52, Buffalo 17
1994...Dallas 30, Buffalo 13

SUPER BOWL MVPs

1967...Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1968...Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1969...Joe Namath, New York Jets
1970...Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs
1971...Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys
1972...Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys
1973...Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins
1974...Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins
1975...Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers
1976...Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers
1977...Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders
1978...Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys
1979...Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1980...Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1981...Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders
1982...Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1983...John Riggins, Washington Redskins
1984...Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders
1985...Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1986...Richard Dent, Chicago Bears
1987...Phil Simms, New York Giants
1988...Doug Williams, Washington Redskins
1989...Jerry Rice, San Francisco 49ers
1990...Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1991...Otis Anderson, New York Giants
1992...Mark Rypien, Washington Redskins
1993...Troy Aikman, Dallas Cowboys
1994...Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

*The AFC title is up for grabs,
but can anyone
take it from Buffalo?*

AFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Buffalo Bills
2. Miami Dolphins*
3. New England Patriots
4. New York Jets
5. Indianapolis Colts

* Wild Card Teams

CENTRAL

1. Pittsburgh Steelers
2. Houston Oilers
3. Cleveland Browns
4. Cincinnati Bengals

AFC Champion: Buffalo Bills

WEST

1. Los Angeles Raiders
2. Denver Broncos*
3. Kansas City Chiefs*
4. Seattle Seahawks
5. San Diego Chargers

by LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS

It's been said for almost three years now: "Anyone but the Bills. Give some other team a chance. Don't let the road to the Super Bowl go through Buffalo again. It's someone else's turn." Before Buffalo, no team had ever gone to the Super Bowl for four straight seasons and no team had ever lost four consecutive Super Bowls. But no team ever dominated the AFC as the Bills have since 1990.

If there is to be a change in the conference this season, it will have to be done on the field, not on the talk shows or in the newspapers. The NFL is not a democracy. In pro football teams are not "given" a championship. The mandatory verb is "take." The 13 other AFC teams have been weak on "taking."

The Los Angeles Raiders were 30 minutes away from dethroning the Bills in the playoffs last January. They led, 17-6, in the second quarter and 17-13 at half time. In the second half, Buffalo raked them for 18 first downs while the Raiders were managing just one. Twice in the last four years the Raiders challenged Buffalo in the AFC postseason tournament and their defense surrendered a total of 80 points.

Kansas City's regeneration with Joe Montana at quarterback and Marcus Allen at running back ended in the AFC championship game in Buffalo. By half time the Bills had gouged the Chiefs' defense for 159 yards on the ground alone and had driven their star pass rusher, Derrick Thomas, out of the game because he couldn't handle Thurman Thomas's blockers. Montana completed just eight of his first 22 passes and was forced to leave the game because of a concussion.

Pittsburgh scorched the Bills, 24-0, on Monday night football and people nodded sagely and said, "The Steelers are a Super Bowl team." They were that night, but never again.

John Elway

For the last four years, some NFL people insisted Houston had better talent than Buffalo, yet something always happens to the Oilers in the playoffs. If it isn't John Elway leading a last-minute rally, it's a miracle comeback by a Buffalo wild-card team after the Oilers held a 32-point lead in the third quarter. Last season Houston was the hottest team in the NFL going into the playoffs and then turned flabby against Kansas City right in the Astrodome.

The Dolphins? They haven't been able to beat Buffalo in Miami. It's the Bills' winter home. Since Joe Robbie Stadium opened, the Bills have won seven of the eight games played there. In 1992 Miami had the home-field advantage against Buffalo in the AFC championship game and never showed up. Marv Levy's career coaching record against Don Shula is 14-5. Last season the Dolphins were the popular choice to win the AFC after they signed a flock of free agents. As the stretch run began, they were 9-2, the best record in football. They never won again. The five-game flop included a critical game against Buffalo in Joe Robbie Stadium. The Bills won, 47-34.

For all their winning (57 victories in the '90s) the Bills have this little problem at the end of January. Considering that and the absence of a more worthy challenger, it's no wonder the AFC hasn't won a Super Bowl in 11 seasons. This year the Bills have been dented, if not battered, by free agency. More significantly, they now carry even heavier baggage from their Super Bowl disasters. There is a strong feeling around the NFL that they quit in the third quarter of Super Bowl XXVIII after Dallas's James Washington picked up Thomas's fumble and scored with it to tie the game, 13-13. Yet if their psychological damage is healed sufficiently, the Bills still appear to be a stronger team than any of the pretenders.

Denver is the dark horse. "We were the most improved team in the league on defense last year," said coach Wade Phillips, "and we should be even better." The Broncos signed Anthony Miller, San Diego's great receiver, then added more speed by trading for Mike Pritchard of Atlanta. The Broncos also dealt for San Francisco nose tackle Ted Washington and Philadelphia cornerback Ben Smith.

The spoiler is New England, with a more powerful ground game, a year's experience for quarterback Drew Bledsoe, and the impetus of a roaring finish to last season.

Changes in the AFC were less than wholesale. Pete Carroll of the Jets is the only new coach. The NFC did most of the quarterback



Jim Kelly

shifting. The only new starters in the AFC are Jim Harbaugh for Jeff George in Indianapolis and Cody Carlson for Warren Moon in Houston. More significant changes may be the departure of Buddy Ryan in Houston and the coming of Bill Tobin as Indy's general manager.

Predictions for 1994 individual honors:

- *Passing:* John Elway, Denver
- *Rushing:* Marion Butts, New England
- *Receiving:* Rob Moore, New York
- *MVP Offense:* Jeff Hostetler, Los Angeles
- *MVP Defense:* Junior Seau, San Diego
- *Offensive Rookie of the Year:*
- Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis
- *Defensive Rookie of the Year:*
- Dan Wilkinson, Cincinnati

1994 ALL-AFC TEAM

OFFENSE

- QB John Elway, Denver
- RB Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
- RB Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis
- WR Tim Brown, Los Angeles
- WR Anthony Miller, Denver
- TE Shannon Sharpe, Denver
- OT Will Wolford, Indianapolis
- OT Howard Ballard, Seattle
- OG Dwayne White, New York
- OG Will Shields, Kansas City
- C Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh
- PK Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh
- KR Eric Metcalf, Cleveland

DEFENSE

- DE Bruce Smith, Buffalo
- DE Jeff Lageman, New York
- DT Cortez Kennedy, Seattle
- DT Michael Dean Perry, Cleveland
- LB Junior Seau, San Diego
- LB Greg Lloyd, Pittsburgh
- LB Mo Lewis, New York
- CB Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
- CB Nate Odomes, Seattle
- SS Henry Jones, Buffalo
- FS Eugene Robinson, Seattle
- P Rich Camarillo, Houston

AFCeast

BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills have been diluted. They may not be able to pound it out as they did against Kansas City in the AFC championship game last season and against the Raiders in the second half of their playoff game, but they still have enough stars and developing studs to withstand challenges in a conference that remains mediocre. What other AFC teams can field talent such as Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Andre Reed, Bruce Smith, Cornelius Bennett, Darryl Talley, Jeff Wright, and Henry Jones?

"We are not going to break up the Buffalo Bills," said coach Marv Levy in the wake of a fourth straight Super Bowl debacle. "That would be overreaction." True to Levy's word, the Bills spent the winter caring for their own, re-signing the bulk of their important players. They didn't even dabble in the free-agent market, which some consider a mistake. But their free-agent losses didn't approach those of the Cowboys, their Super Bowl conquerors.

Kelly is 34, but the NFL is a league where mature quarterbacks play in January. He was intercepted only once in 114 passes during the playoffs. The no-huddle offense was deemphasized in 1993, but Kelly ended up with just about as many yards as he passed for in '92. Buffalo isn't exactly a control passing team now, but the approach is more conservative. Kelly's completion percentage went up and his interception ratio went down. The most important aspect of Kelly's game is that he knows the way to the end zone. Immediately after Jeff Hostetler connected with Tim Brown on the 86-yard pass play that put the Raiders ahead in their playoff match, Kelly drove his team 71 yards for the winning score, his 22-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks.

Thomas will go down as one of the all-time Super Bowl goats, and there were rumors during the winter that the Bills would trade him. But the hierarchy is patient. It remembers that seven days before his disintegration in the Super Bowl, he ran for 186 yards and scored three touchdowns, destroying Kansas City in the AFC title game. He scored five touchdowns in the postseason. Thurman easily led the AFC with 1,315 yards, the third-highest total of his career. He led the NFL in all-purpose yardage for the fifth time and he just turned 28 years old. Behind Thomas is one of the league's most explosive backups, Kenneth Davis, who averaged 3.6 yards.

Nevertheless, the Bills are nowhere near the offense they were in the racehorse days of the no-huddle attack. Their scoring was down by more than a field goal per game last year, but overall there was a huge drop (eight points per game) from 1991, Ted Marchibroda's last year as offensive coordinator.

Even if the Bills continue their conservatism under offensive coordinator Tom Bresnahan, they still have to find some speed to stretch the field, something they haven't had on a consistent basis since James Lofton left. Don Beebe is their only veteran speed receiver, but he's too erratic. The leading target last season was Pete Metzelaars, who had a career year with 68 catches. The receptions averaged just nine yards, however, and at 34

JIM KELLY

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Christie, 105 points on 36 extra points and 23 field goals... 8th
 RUSHING—Thomas, 1,315 yards on 355 carries, 3.7 avg., 6 TDs... 1st
 PASSING—Kelly, 288 of 470 attempts for 3,382 yards and 18 TDs... 7th
 RECEIVING—Metzelaars, 68 receptions for 609 yards, 9.0 avg., 4 TDs... 18th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Odomes, 9 for 65 yards, 7.2 average... 11st
 PUNTING—Mohr, 74 punts, 40.4 average, longest 58 yards... 12th
 PUNT RETURNS—Copeland, 31 for 274 yards, 8.8 average... 8th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Copeland, 24 for 436 yards, 18.2 average... 10th
 SACKS—Smith, 14.0 sacks... 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 WASHINGTON (N)
 12 At Atlanta (N)
 20 Houston at San Antonio, TX (N)
 26 KANSAS CITY (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

September 4 N.Y. JETS... 16-14
 11 At New England... 13-10
 18 At Houston... 35-7
 26 DENVER (N) ... —
 October 2 At Chicago... —
 9 MIAMI... 13-22
 16 INDIANAPOLIS... 23-9
 23 OPEN DATE... —
 30 KANSAS CITY... 7-23
 November 6 At N.Y. Jets... 19-10
 14 At Pittsburgh (N)... 0-23
 20 GREEN BAY... —
 24 At Detroit... —
 December 4 At Miami (N)... 47-34
 11 MINNESOTA... —
 18 NEW ENGLAND... 38-14
 24 At Indianapolis... 30-10

1993 SCORES

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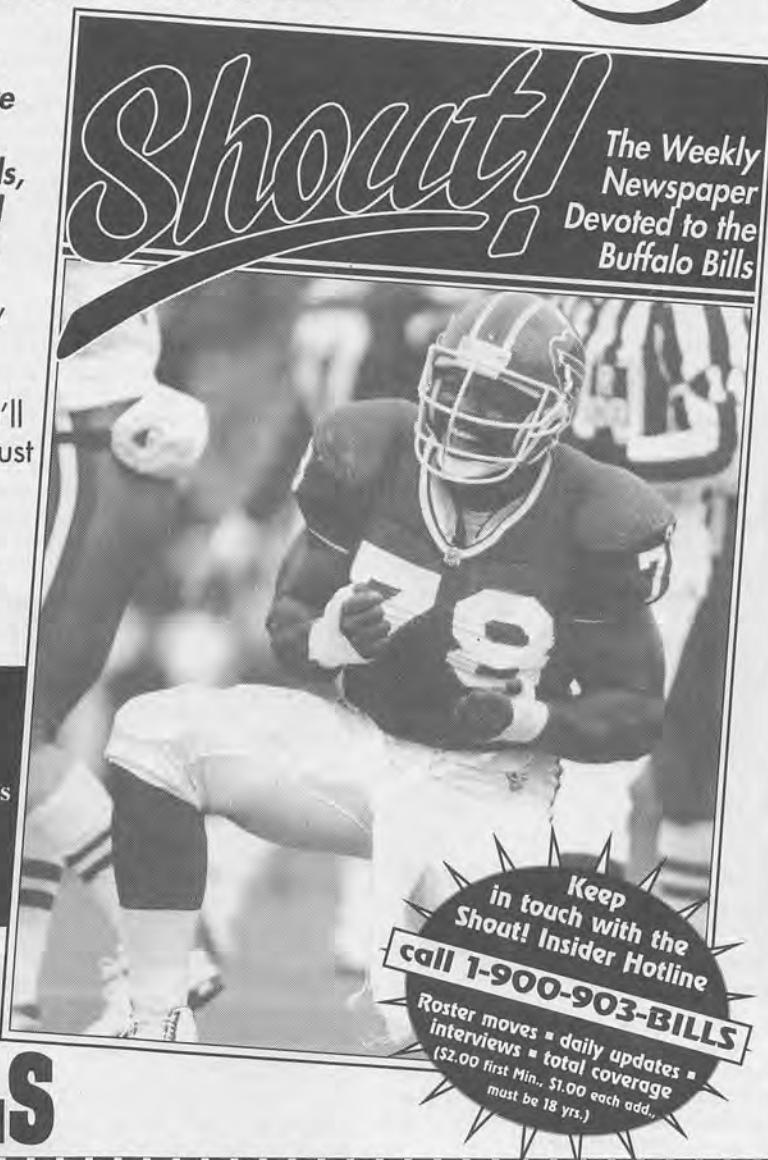
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he's not going to get faster. Reed averaged 16.4 yards on his 52 catches and went to the Pro Bowl again, but Kelly doesn't use him as the go-to guy as often as he once did. Brooks, a possession receiver, was a valuable free-agent signee with 60 catches.

The major worry is the offensive line. Only two starters remain from the 1992 team. When left tackle Will Wolford defected to Indianapolis a year ago, the development of second-year man John Fina was accelerated, and he was more than adequate as the replacement. John Davis came back from knee surgery to claim left guard. Now the Bills have run out of experienced replacements. When Howard Ballard signed with Seattle, the unseasoned Jerry Crafts was the only candidate remaining

hibition season. Now Parrella, a player whose inner motor does not have a "stop" switch, has to be played.

Smith, the all-pro defensive end, enjoyed one of his finest seasons. The addition of some heft among his colleagues could help him even further. Smith's three sacks in the playoffs gave him the career lead among active pass rushers. A fanatic about conditioning, he remains the foundation of the defense. Wright is one of the league's better nose tackles, but he was worn down late in the year. End Phil Hansen puts heat on the passer, but he can be muscled by a strong running team.

The reordered linebacking corps, which put the emphasis on speed rather than muscle, played well for the most part. When Bennett was moved back outside, the expectation was that he would attack passers more effectively. He had just five sacks, although that was second on the team to Smith's 14. The most pleasant surprises were the development of Marcus Patton on the inside and the success Talley had in maintaining his youth. The other new inside linebacker, Mark Maddox, used his quickness to make a number of big plays, but he was overpowered in some games.

The secondary will have at least two new starters. Thomas Smith, last year's first-round draftee, will replace Odomes at right corner. He started one game and made some big plays in a reserve role. Veteran free safety Mark Kelso was released. Tough Matt Darby and Jeff Burris, the No. 1 draft choice who was Notre Dame's MVP in 1993, will compete for

downs. Free-agent compensation resulted in three second-round selections, used for wide receiver Bucky Brooks, the North Carolina flyer, Florida State tight end Lonnie Johnson, and Colorado linebacker Sam Rogers, a big pass rusher. Corey Louchiey of South Carolina is a mammoth offensive tackle who may be a year away but could be pressed into service anyway. With speed needed so desperately at tight end, Johnson may get to play more than any of the newcomers. At FSU he was usually ignored by Charlie Ward because there were so many other targets. The Buffalo scouts remember his productive sophomore year and think he will have a good jump since the Seminoles use the Bills' system.

Steve Christie kicked the longest field goal in Super Bowl history (54 yards) and punter Chris Mohr was re-signed for serious money because he masters the tricky winds in Rich Stadium. Another major financial commitment was made to keep Steve Tasker, the special-teams' ace. He broke open the playoff game against the Raiders with a clutch kickoff return.



DARRYL TALLEY



THURMAN THOMAS

on the roster. Crafts' principal asset is enormous physical presence, so he may be moved inside to guard with Glenn Parker sliding over to play right tackle. The sole constant is veteran center Kent Hull. An injury to any starter could produce disaster.

The most shocking part of the second-half collapse in the Super Bowl wasn't Thomas's fumble but the way Dallas crushed the Buffalo defense on its next possession. The Cowboys had their way with the Bills' relatively small line, continually running Emmitt Smith over pancaked defenders. There is a philosophical debate among the Bills' coaches over whether to play more four-man fronts in 1994. The ironic part is that the size to do it is available. While their smaller teammates were being overpowered, 296-pound John Parrella and 287-pound James Patton, defensive tackles drafted in the second round the previous two years, watched in civilian clothes. Levy, a disciple of the late George Allen, doesn't like to play rookies. He stubbornly stuck to that policy even when Parrella had an impressive ex-

Kelso's spot. Darby is better suited for strong safety, so there is another scenario where Jones could move from strong to free safety. Mickey Washington won the left corner late in the season and played well.

The Bills addressed several of their problem areas in the draft: the secondary, tight end, wide-receiver speed, and depth at linebacker and in the offensive line. Burris will help somewhere. He's so versatile that the Irish used him as a running back in goal-line situations and he scored six career touch-

BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
86	Awalt, Rob	TE	6-5	242	30	San Diego St.
77	Barnett, Oliver	DE	6-3	292	28	Kentucky
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	180	30	Chadron State
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	29	Alabama
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	189	30	Boston University
96	Brown, Monty	LB	6-0	228	24	Ferris State
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	27	William & Mary
85	Copeland, Russell	WR	6-0	200	23	Memphis State
66	Crafts, Jerry	OT	6-6	351	26	Louisville
43	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	26	UCLA
65	Davis, John	G	6-4	310	29	Georgia Tech
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	208	32	TCU
62	Devlin, Mike	OC	6-1	293	25	Iowa
85	Edwards, Al	WR	5-8	173	27	NW Louisiana
70	Fina, John	OL	6-4	285	25	Arizona
33	Fuller, Eddie	RB	5-9	198	26	LSU
35	Gardner, Carwell	FB	6-2	244	28	Louisville
50	Goganious, Keith	LB	6-2	239	26	Penn State
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	278	26	North Dakota St.
52	Harvey, Richard	LB	6-1	242	28	Tulane
36	Henderson, Jerome	DB	5-10	189	25	Clemson
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	284	33	Mississippi St.
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	27	Illinois
30	Jourd'ain, Yonel	RB	5-11	204	23	So. Illinois
12	Kelly, Jim	DB	6-3	226	34	Miami
68	Lacina, Corbin	OL	6-4	297	24	Augustana (SD)
81	Lamb, Brad	WR	5-10	177	27	Anderson
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	268	34	Illinois
73	Lodish, Mike	NT	6-3	280	27	UCLA
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	26	Northern Michigan
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-4	242	30	Jacksonville State
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	254	34	Wabash
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	28	Alabama
74	Parker, Glenn	G/T	6-5	305	28	Arizona
92	Parrella, John	DL	6-3	296	25	Nebraska
99	Patton, James	DL	6-3	287	24	Texas
53	Patton, Marcus	LB	6-2	243	27	UCLA
94	Pike, Mark	DB	6-4	272	31	Georgia Tech
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	30	Kutztown
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	205	33	Maryland
24	Schultz, Kurt	S	6-1	208	26	E. Washington
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	31	Virginia Tech
28	Smith, Thomas	CB	5-11	188	24	North Carolina
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	34	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	181	32	Northwestern
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	28	Oklahoma State
21	Turner, Nate	RB	6-1	255	25	Nebraska
25	Washington, Mickey	CB	5-9	191	26	Texas A&M
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-3	274	31	Central Mo. St.

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Burris, Jeff	DB	5-11	194	Notre Dame
2	Brooks, Bucky	WR	5-11	186	North Carolina
2	Johnson, Lonnie	TE	6-3	239	Florida State
2	Rogers, Sam	LB	6-2	249	Colorado
3	Perry, Mario	LB	6-4	250	Jackson State
3	Louchiey, Corey	OT	6-7	309	South Carolina
4	Crocker, Sean	DB	5-10	192	North Carolina
5	Ofofiele, A.J.	TE	6-7	260	Missouri
6	Abrams, Anthony	DE	6-3	298	Clark (GA)
6	Knox, Kevin	WR	6-3	195	Florida State
7	Johnson, Filmel	DB	5-9	186	Illinois

MIAMI DOLPHINS

How does a team with the best record in the NFL on Thanksgiving Day miss the playoffs? The Dolphins managed it by not winning a game for the rest of the season and now must deal with the psychological scars.

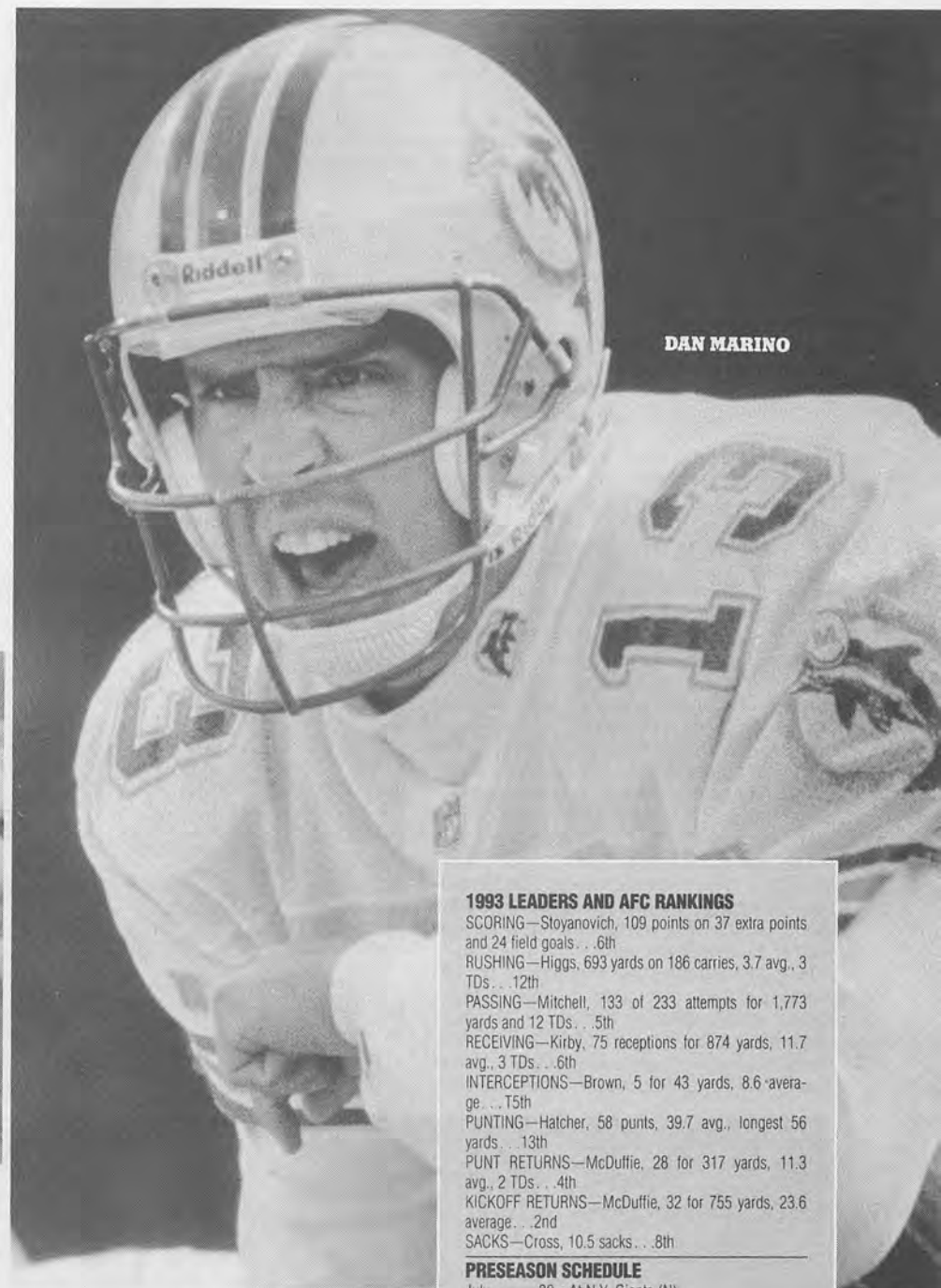
There is another psychological factor in the background as Miami attempts to heal. It has to do with the availability of Jimmy Johnson, the ex-coach of the Dallas Cowboys (and the Miami Hurricanes), who will reside on his boat in Biscayne Bay during his season of self-imposed exile. Johnson makes it plain that he would like to resume his coaching career in 1995, preferably somewhere in Florida. Don Shula is the winningest coach in NFL history, but he will turn 64 next January and his current contract will expire a short time later. The Dolphins were sold to Blockbuster Video tycoon Wayne Huizenga, and when Johnson and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had their noisy split in April, the speculation began that Johnson might succeed Shula in Huizenga's vision of the team's future. Huizenga didn't help much when he issued a terse statement: "Don Shula is coach of the Dolphins." Since Huizenga hadn't been formally approved by the NFL as the new owner of the franchise, the



MARCO COLEMAN

idea of beginning negotiations with Shula on a new contract could be sidestepped diplomatically. If a contract for Shula is not resolved by the start of the season, it could be a distraction for the Dolphins.

The obvious reason for the late-season collapse was the absence of stars such as quarterback Dan Marino, cornerback Troy Vincent, and linebacker John Offerdahl. But Marino injured his Achilles' tendon early in the year and Offerdahl was making just cameo appearances after the first month. There is some serious healing still to be done. The biggest worry is over Marino. He underwent additional surgery early in the spring to clean out the heel area so that the rehabilitation process could be eased, but that type of injury can be haunting for a 33-year-old football player. Vincent was arriving as one of the NFL's foremost cover corners when he blew out his knee. "It was major surgery," said Shula, who felt that Vincent's departure from the lineup was a big reason for the slump. Offerdahl considered retirement after last season. Even if he does come back, it seems obvious that his slam-



DAN MARINO

bang style has taken a physical toll and he is unlikely to play a complete season.

Then there is the unruly atmosphere on the sidelines. Bryan Cox, the dynamic linebacker, can be as disruptive to the Dolphins off the field as he is on their behalf on the field. He went out of control in a couple of games last season and it cost his team. He isn't the only one. Defensive end Marco Coleman can be an undisciplined player. And in a vital Monday night game in San Diego late in December, Irving Fryar caught a pass and made a superb run. Fryar thought he had made it into the end zone, but when the officials ruled him out of bounds on the 2-yard line, he had a tantrum that almost cost his team a penalty.

Marino has to get more out of Mark Ingram (44 catches for a 16.1-yard average) and Keith Jackson (39 for 15.7). Jackson disap-

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stoyanovich, 109 points on 37 extra points and 24 field goals . . . 6th
RUSHING—Higgs, 693 yards on 186 carries, 3.7 avg., 3 TDs . . . 12th
PASSING—Mitchell, 133 of 233 attempts for 1,773 yards and 12 TDs . . . 5th
RECEIVING—Kirby, 75 receptions for 874 yards, 11.7 avg., 3 TDs . . . 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brown, 5 for 43 yards, 8.6 average . . . 15th
PUNTING—Hatcher, 58 punts, 39.7 avg., longest 56 yards . . . 13th
PUNT RETURNS—McDuffie, 28 for 317 yards, 11.3 avg., 2 TDs . . . 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McDuffie, 32 for 755 yards, 23.6 average . . . 2nd
SACKS—Cross, 10.5 sacks . . . 8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	30	At N.Y. Giants (N)
August	6	PITTSBURGH (N)
	13	Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI. (N)
	20	TAMPA BAY (N)
	26	At Minnesota (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

September	4	NEW ENGLAND	17-13
	11	Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI.	—
	18	N.Y. JETS	14-24
	25	At Minnesota	—
October	2	At Cincinnati (N)	—
	9	At Buffalo	22-13
	16	L.A. RAIDERS	—
	23	OPEN DATE	—
	30	At New England	27-33
November	6	INDIANAPOLIS	41-27
	13	CHICAGO	—
	20	At Pittsburgh	20-21
	27	At N.Y. Jets	10-27
December	4	BUFFALO (N)	34-47
	12	KANSAS CITY (N)	30-10
	18	At Indianapolis	24-20
	25	DETROIT (N)	—

peared down the stretch. Fryar had a 1,000-yard season on 64 catches. Last year's draft could produce a bigger punch. Running back Terry Kirby was the prize rookie with 75 catches plus some important heavy-duty running. O.J. McDuffie gave Shula the return lift he was looking for with a 23.6-yard average on kickoffs and 11.3 on punts with two returned for touchdowns. McDuffie figures more prominently as the third receiver now. Keith Byars, who caught 61 passes and blocked as nobly as he once did in Philadelphia, may be comfortable enough to take a firmer leadership role in his second season.

Shula was crushed when Scott Mitchell, the kid quarterback he so carefully developed, signed with Detroit as a free agent. With Marino's health a worry now, the backup position is essential, which is why Bernie Kosar was signed as a free agent. Kosar's skills have deteriorated, but he still has enough arm and certainly enough poise to get the Dolphins through a crisis.

The strength of the offensive line remains the left side, with Richmond Webb at tackle and Keith Sims at guard. Signing right tackle Ron Heller as a free agent turned out to be a solid move. Bert Weidner, once a defensive lineman, developed into a gritty right guard. When center Jeff Uhlenhake signed with New Orleans, Shula made a savvy move by obtaining Notre Dame's Tim Ruddy, a quick study, from Arizona. Byars is an important element of Marino's protection, but there isn't much blocking help from the tight end with Jackson in the lineup. Only three NFL teams gained fewer yards on the ground than Miami. It may not be much different in 1994. Only one rookie, Ruddy, is an offensive player. The top runner, Mark Higgs, ranked 12th in the AFC (693 yards). Kirby (390 yards) is more a banger than an breakaway threat.

In its last three losses, Miami gave up 125 points, a statistic that made their playoff talk a joke. It was no surprise that the emphasis in the draft was on defense. Miami's defensive statistics weren't much worse than Buffalo's. The difference is that the Bills surrendered a

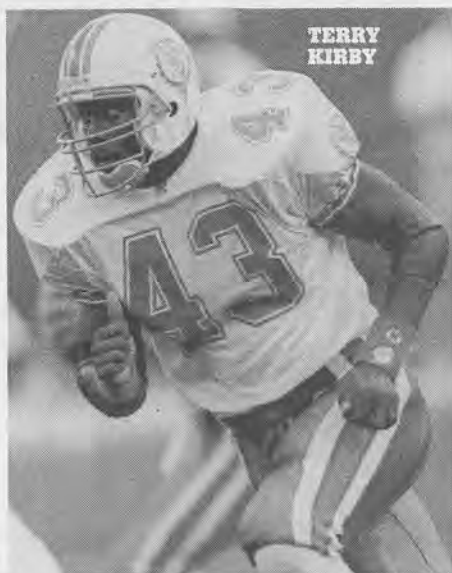
lot of yardage but only 25 touchdowns. The Dolphins gave up big yardage and 43 TDs.

When the Dolphins use a four-man front, Offerdahl is the middle linebacker with Cox on the right side and John Grimsley on the left. Dwight Hollier and Cliff Odom should be in the scramble now, along with the rookies. There are plenty of openings in the line, too. After injuries struck the secondary, Miami needed better pressure on the passer and couldn't find it. The sack total, 29, was near the bottom of the league. Shula took a number of risks in the draft. The top pick was defensive tackle Tim Bowens, a huge, unpolished kid who played only nine games and started just seven for the University of Mississippi. He has a reputation for being out of shape and not working hard, but he also has size (6-4 and 325 pounds) and great skills. If the Dolphins can get him into playing shape, he could be the man they seek for the interior of their line. William Gaines of Florida is another big tackle with a questionable knee. The Dolphins also selected three linebackers: Aubrey Beavers

of Oklahoma, Ronnie Woolfork, who had a disappointing senior year at Colorado, and Brant Boyer of Arizona.

Free agency created a major change in the secondary, where ex-Saint Gene Atkins and ex-Ram Michael Stewart provide more speed at the safeties. Opposing passing attacks should no longer be able to isolate on the safeties as they used to do against Louis Oliver and Jarvis Williams. If Vincent heals well, this should be an improved area. J.B. Brown is reliable at right corner.

Pete Stoyanovich, the place-kicker, was one of the few constants in the season-ending disaster. In the last four games, he went eight-for-nine. Jim Arnold, the long-time Detroit Lion, is the new punter. McDuffie finished second in the AFC in kickoff returns and fourth in punt returns.



DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

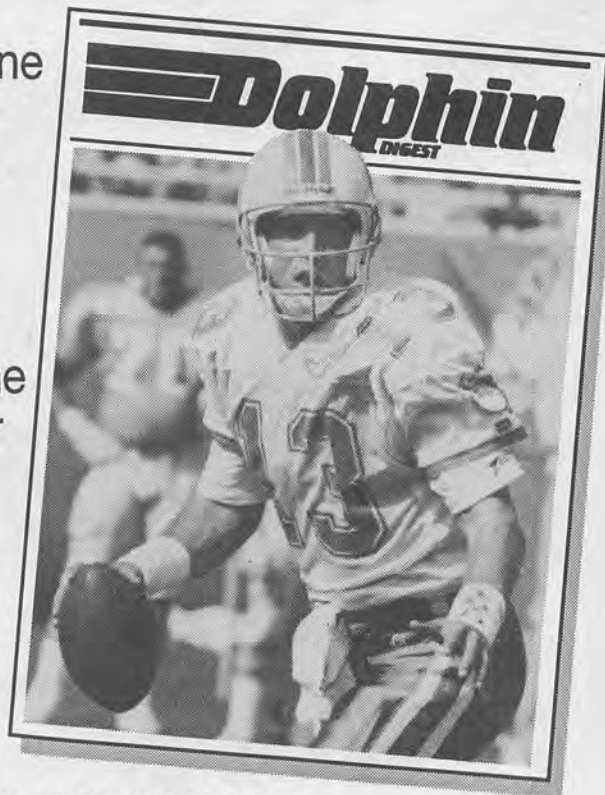
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
32	Alexander, Bruce	CB	5-8	178	29	Stephen F. Austin
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	33	Vanderbilt
28	Atkins, Gene	S	5-11	200	30	Florida A&M
84	Baty, Greg	TE	6-6	240	30	Stanford
66	Blake, Eddie	G	6-3	315	26	Auburn
37	Brown, J.B.	CB	6-0	190	27	Maryland
54	Bullough, Chuck	LB	6-1	238	25	Michigan State
41	Byars, Keith	FB	6-1	256	31	Ohio State
90	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	262	25	Georgia Tech
51	Cox, Bryan	LB	6-4	242	26	Western Illinois
34	Craver, Aaron	RB	6-0	220	26	Fresno State
91	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	273	28	Missouri
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	220	40	San Jose State
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	OL	6-5	290	31	Wisconsin
74	Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	296	29	Illinois
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	32	Nebraska
62	Gray, Chris	OL	6-4	289	24	Auburn
42	Green, Chris	S	5-11	192	26	Illinois
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	236	32	Kentucky
45	Harden, Bobby	S	6-0	205	27	Miami
73	Heller, Ron	T	6-6	293	32	Penn State
21	Higgs, Mark	RB	5-7	196	29	Kentucky
50	Hollier, Dwight	LB	6-2	250	25	North Carolina
97	Hunter, Jeff	DE	6-4	291	28	Albany State
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-11	190	29	Michigan State
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	254	29	Oklahoma
24	Jackson, Vestee	CB	6-0	186	31	Washington
89	Johnson, Demeris	WR	6-2	185	29	Western Illinois
43	Kirby, Terry	RB	6-1	219	24	Virginia
99	Klingbeil, Chuck	NT	6-1	289	29	N. Michigan
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	215	31	Miami
47	Malone, Darrell	CB	5-10	182	27	Jacksonville St.
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	224	33	Pittsburgh
81	McDuffie, O.J.	WR	5-10	185	25	Penn State
93	Novak, Jeff	OL	6-6	300	27	SW Texas St.
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	236	36	Texas Arlington
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-3	238	30	W. Michigan
20	Oliver, Muhammad	CB	5-11	170	25	Oregon
30	Parmalee, Bernie	RB	5-11	204	27	Ball State
14	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	209	26	NE Louisiana
45	Quarles, Shelton	LB	6-1	228	23	Vanderbilt
92	Rooks, George	DT	6-3	298	24	Syracuse
77	Rowell, Tony	G	6-4	289	25	Florida
61	Ruddy, Tim	C	6-3	282	22	Notre Dame
22	Saxon, James	FB	5-11	237	28	San Jose State
69	Sims, Keith	G	6-3	303	27	Iowa State
55	Singleton, Chris	LB	6-2	242	27	Arizona
29	Smith, Frankie	CB	5-9	186	26	Baylor
35	Stewart, Michael	S	6-0	195	29	Fresno State
10	Stoyanovich, Pete	K	5-11	185	27	Indiana
57	Thayer, Tom	OL	6-4	284	33	Notre Dame
94	Veasey, Craig	DT	6-2	300	28	Houston
23	Vincent, Troy	CB	6-0	192	24	Wisconsin
78	Webb, Richmond	T	6-6	302	27	Texas A&M
79	Webster, Larry	DT	6-5	288	25	Maryland
60	Weidner, Bert	OL	6-2	290	28	Kent State
26	Williams, Jarvis	S	5-11	200	29	Florida
75	Williams, Jay	DE	6-3	266	23	Wake Forest
87	Williams, Mike	WR	5-11	187	28	Northeastern
85	Williams, Ronnie	TE	6-3	259	28	Oklahoma State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bowens, Tim	DT	6-4	325	Mississippi
2	Beavers, Aubrey	LB	6-3	233	Oklahoma
4	Woolfork, Ron	LB	6-3	253	Colorado
5	Gaines, William	DT	6-5	285	Florida
6	Boyer, Brant	LB	6-2	232	Arizona
7	Hill, Sean	DB	5-10	177	Montana State

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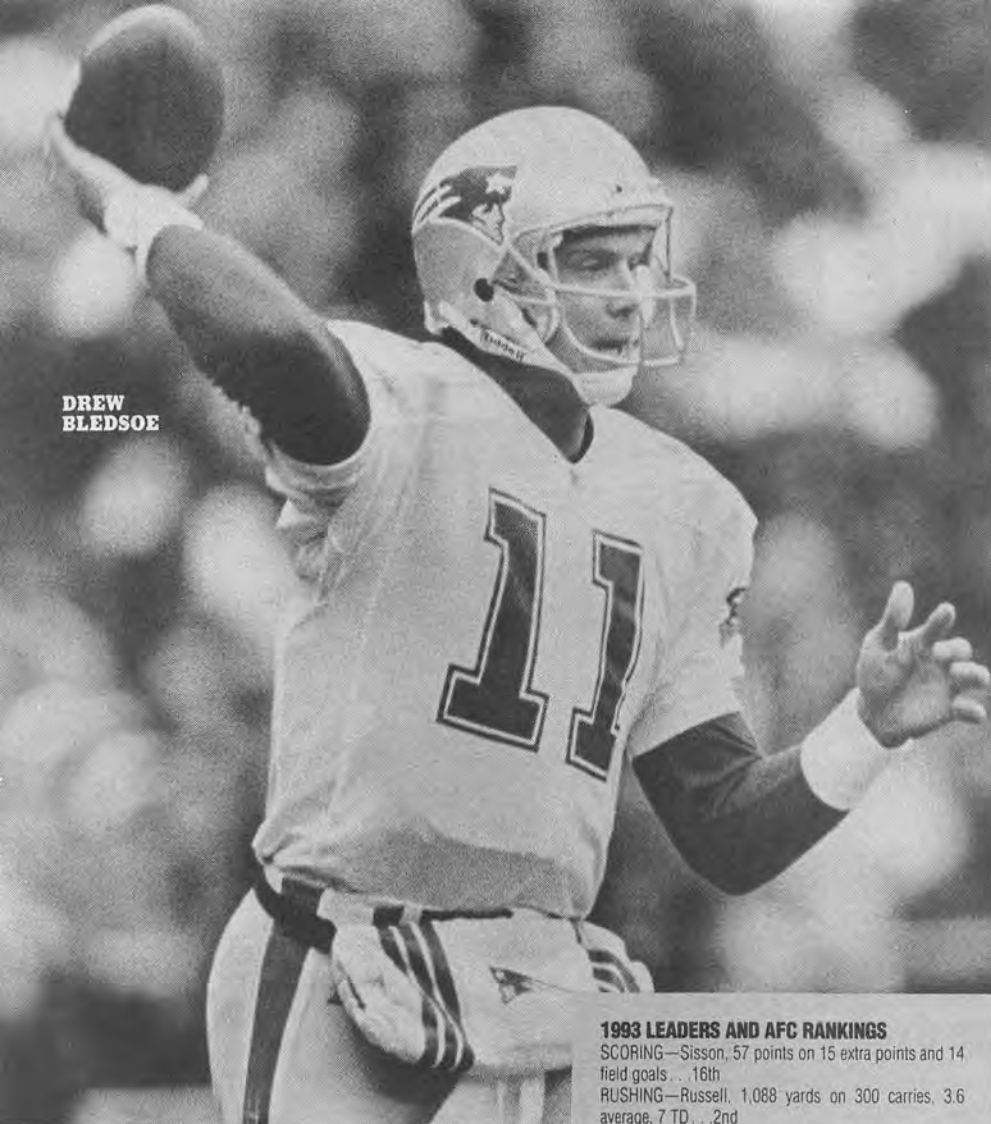
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**DREW
BLED SOE**



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The Patriots haven't known such enthusiasm in a decade. They won their last four games in '94, their wonder quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, began to mature, and their coach, Bill Parcells, delivered as advertised.

Where do the Pats go from here? Don't expect any big leaps. Something like that might have happened if they had ended up last and inherited another cushy, fifth-place schedule, but the season-ending winning streak pushed them ahead of Indianapolis. Besides, they haven't played a critical game yet. On the other hand there is no denying the Patriots are excited about the future. "They were close enough to have won at least half the games they lost last year," said Miami's Don Shula, whose Dolphins lost to New England in the season finale. "Some of those losses against good teams they should have won, including the game against Buffalo in Foxboro."

Now every football fan in New England is waiting to see what sort of progress is made under the new owner, Bob Kraft, who also owns the stadium. His purchase ended all talk of moving the franchise, which should have a soothing effect on the team. The expectation that Parcells would be let loose in the free-agent market did not materialize, however. There isn't much doubt that Kraft overpaid for the team. That may have killed any ideas about blank checks. The Pats thought about big-time receivers Anthony Miller and Michael

Haynes along with pass-rushing linebacker Tony Bennett, and then declined to sign them. Instead they signed foot soldiers like guard Bob Kratch and safety Myron Guyton of the Giants and took a stab at running back Blair Thomas, a flop with the Jets.

The most dramatic improvements may have occurred on draft day by traditional means. When Parcells was unable to trade up in the first round in order to select Big Daddy Dan Wilkinson, the dominating defensive tackle from Ohio State, he accepted a consolation prize in Willie McGinest of USC, widely considered to be the best pass-rush prospect in the draft. Equally important was a trade for power back Marion Butts from San Diego.

Both moves were designed to challenge Buffalo's supremacy in the division. Since the Bills lost both their star offensive tackles in free agency, Parcells can attack a vulnerability with McGinest. In the last Super Bowl, the game was broken open when the Cowboys overpowered the smaller Buffalo defensive linemen with a 64-yard drive during which Emmitt Smith pounded away behind his massive blockers. It could turn out that the Patriots may be able to do something similar with Butts carrying the ball behind New England's improved line. Parcells will find out soon enough. The

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

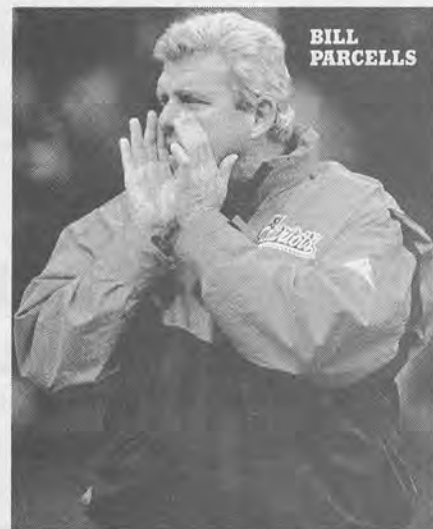
SCORING—Sisson, 57 points on 15 extra points and 14 field goals... 16th
RUSHING—Russell, 1,088 yards on 300 carries, 3.6 average, 7 TD... 2nd
PASSING—Bledsoe, 214 of 429 attempts for 2,494 yards and 15 TDs... 16th
RECEIVING—Coates, 53 receptions for 659 yards, 12.4 avg., 8 TDs... 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Hurst, 4 for 53 yards, 13.3 average... 16th
PUNTING—Saxon, 73 punts, 42.4 avg., longest 59 yards... 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Harris, 23 for 201 yards, 8.7 average... 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Crittenden, 23 for 478 yards, 20.8 average... 5th
SACKS—Tippett, 8.5 sacks... 11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

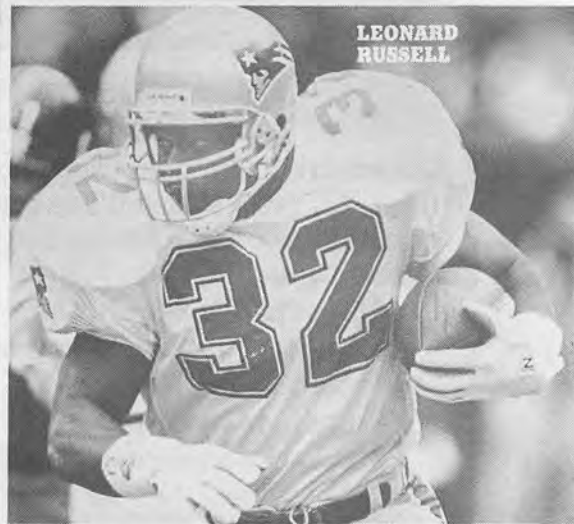
August 5 NEW ORLEANS (N)
 13 At L.A. Rams (N)
 18 WASHINGTON (N)
 26 At Green Bay (N)

1994 SCHEDULE		1993 SCORES	
September	4 At Miami	13-17	
	11 BUFFALO	10-13	
	18 At Cincinnati	7-2	
	25 At Detroit	16-19	
October	2 GREEN BAY	—	
	9 L.A. RAIDERS	—	
	16 At N.Y. Jets	7-45	
November	23 OPEN DATE	—	
	30 MIAMI	33-27	
	6 At Cleveland	20-17	
	13 MINNESOTA	—	
	20 SAN DIEGO	—	
December	27 At Indianapolis (N)	6-9	
	4 N.Y. JETS	0-6	
	11 INDIANAPOLIS	38-0	
	18 At Buffalo	14-38	
	24 At Chicago	—	

**BILL
PARCELLS**



**LEONARD
RUSSELL**



Pats play Buffalo in Foxboro in the second game of the season.

Bledsoe, by the testimony of friend and foe, could be one of pro football's next great quarterbacks. His 2,494 yards passing is fourth on the league's all-time rookie list. Seven of his 15 touchdown passes came in the last four games, when the Pats scored 91 points, 18 more than they scored in their previous eight games. Eight of their 11 losses were by six points or less, which makes the Bledsoe-led, late-season uprising all the more significant.

There is a nucleus of a good offensive line in veteran Bruce Armstrong at left tackle, Eugene Chung at left guard, and Pat Harlow at right tackle. Kratch takes over at right guard. Bill Lewis, the ex-Cardinal, is the center. Tight end Ben Coates not only led the team in receptions (53, including eight for touchdowns), he's a decent blocker as well. Leonard Russell gained 1,088 yards, second in the AFC, behind last year's line, but Parcells wanted even more power, thus the trade for Butts.

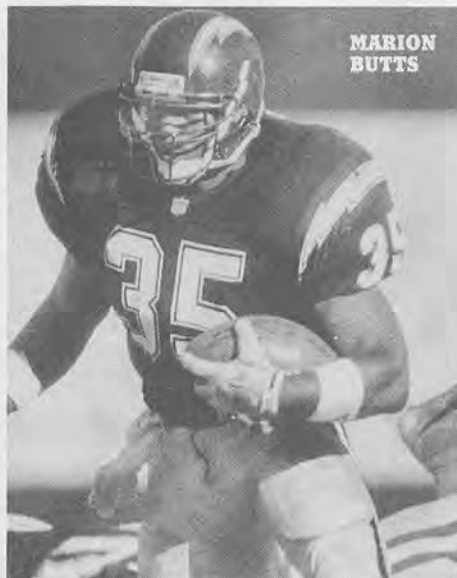
Vincent Brisby led all rookie wide receivers with 45 catches. Eventually he'll be paired with Kevin Lee, the Alabama flyer drafted in the second round. Lee gained more notoriety as a sprinter in college, but when he acquires some polish, New England should have one of the scarier deep threats in the league. Running back Corey Croom, who had a 93-yard day against Indianapolis in the final game of the season, could emerge as the third-down back. He's a special-teams' ace.

McGinest is likely to be used at right defensive end, with Mike Pitts, who beat out Ray Agnew early in the season, at left end and veteran Tim Goad at nose tackle. If McGinest makes an early splash, the Pats can come at passers from both sides, since pass-rushing right linebacker Chris Slade led the team with nine sacks as a rookie. Slade also was the team leader with three forced fumbles. Left linebacker Andre Tippett begins his 13th sea-

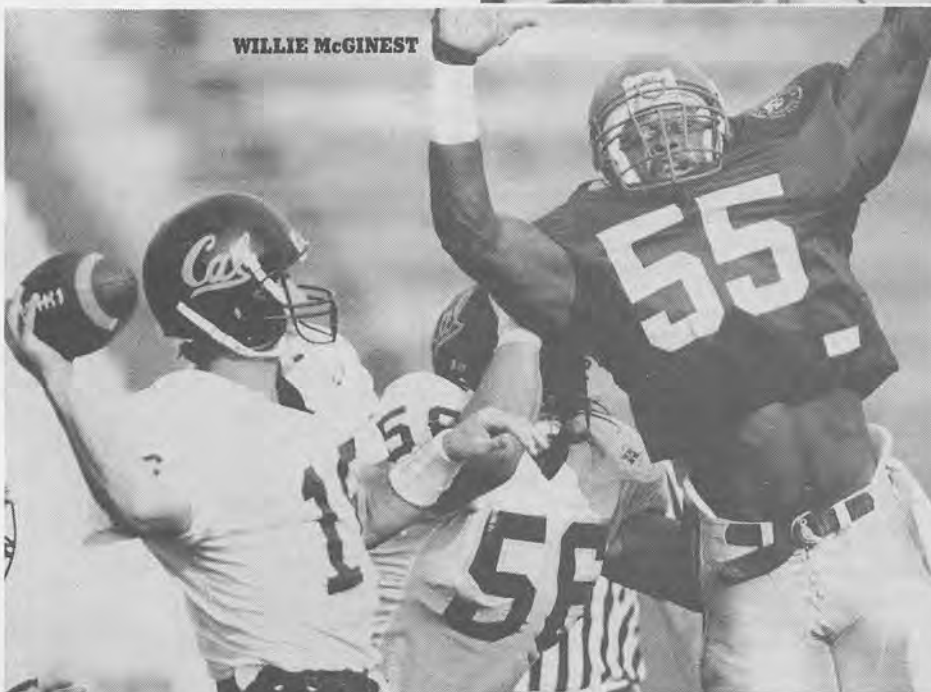
son at age 34, but he still led the Pats with four fumble recoveries. Vincent Brown, one of the premier inside linebackers, led the team with 158 tackles, 104 solo. His partner, Todd Collins, was second with 92 tackles. Dwayne Saab starts ahead of Slade because he's tougher against the run.

Guyton is expected to be the new strong safety, which leaves Corwin Brown, who made the all-rookie team, up in the air. Brown may end up challenging Harlon Barnett, the strong safety. The incumbent starting corners are Maurice Hurst and Rod Smith, but Rickey Reynolds of Tampa Bay was signed as a free agent and Darrell Wren is developing quickly.

Ray Crittenden averaged 21 yards on kick-off returns and Troy Brown nine yards per punt return. Parcells drafted a punter, Pat O'Neill of Syracuse, who also kicks off. There is a need to improve the place-kicking.



MARION BUTTS



WILLIE MCGINEST

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
92	Agnew, Ray	DE	6-3	272	27	N.C. State
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	284	29	Louisville
65	Arthur, Mike	C	6-3	280	26	Texas A&M
3	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	38	Penn State
18	Ballard, Gregory	WR	6-3	190	23	Kansas
42	Barnett, Harlon	FS	5-11	200	27	Michigan St.
64	Barnett, Troy	DE	6-4	282	23	North Carolina
62	Basham, Bernard	DE	6-6	281	23	Virginia Tech
52	Bavaio, David	LB	6-1	228	27	Syracuse
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB	6-5	233	22	Washington St.
49	Borkin, Kirk	TE	6-2	233	23	Arkansas
38	Boyd, Jean	SS	5-11	185	23	Arizona State
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR	6-1	186	23	NE Louisiana
30	Brown, Corwin	SS	6-1	192	24	Michigan
80	Brown, Troy	WR	5-9	183	23	Marshall
59	Brown, Vincent	LB	6-2	245	29	Miss. Valley St.
44	Butts, Marion	RB	6-1	248	28	Florida State
99	Carthon, Jason	LB	6-3	255	24	Ohio
69	Chung, Eugene	G	6-4	295	25	Virginia Tech
87	Coates, Ben	TE	6-5	245	25	Livingstone
54	Collins, Todd	LB	6-2	242	24	Carson-Newman
81	Crittenden, Ray	WR	6-1	188	24	Virginia Tech
26	Croom, Corey	RB	5-11	212	23	Ball St.
50	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	248	32	Boston College
17	Dixon, Todd	WR	5-10	175	23	Wake Forest
64	Durkin, Bill	G	6-5	280	23	Massachusetts
33	Gash, Sam	FB	5-11	224	25	Penn St.
67	Gisler, Mike	G	6-4	300	25	Houston
15	Glenn, Kevin	WR	6-1	166	23	Illinois State
72	Goad, Tim	NT	6-3	280	28	North Carolina
36	Green, Damacio	CB	5-10	183	23	Virginia State
88	Griffith, Richard	TE	6-5	256	25	Arizona
29	Guyton, Myron	SS	6-1	205	27	Eastern Kentucky
77	Harlow, Pat	T	6-6	290	25	USC
84	Harris, Ronnie	WR	5-10	170	24	Oregon
12	Henry, Mario	WR	6-1	184	23	Rutgers
90	Hooks, Bryan	DE	6-3	286	24	Arizona State
37	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5-10	185	27	Southern
98	Johnson, Mario	NT	6-3	288	24	Missouri
97	Jones, Aaron	DE	6-5	267	28	Eastern Kentucky
55	Kerr, Mike	LB	6-5	236	25	Florida
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6-3	288	28	Iowa
28	Lambert, Dion	FS	6-1	185	25	UCLA
35	Legette, Burnie	FB	6-1	243	24	Michigan
75	Lewis, Bill	C	6-6	290	31	Nebraska
43	Lewis, Vernon	CB	5-10	192	24	Pittsburgh
86	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	207	27	Michigan
70	Moore, Brandon	T	6-6	290	24	Duke
93	Pitts, Mike	DE	6-5	277	34	Alabama
23	Ray, Terry	SS	6-1	205	25	Oklahoma
94	Reynolds, Don	DE	6-3	278	25	Virginia
21	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	190	29	Washington State
71	Rucci, Todd	G	6-5	291	24	Penn State
32	Russell, Leonard	RB	6-2	235	25	Arizona St.
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6-4	248	25	New Hampshire
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	202	32	San Diego St.
9	Sisson, Scott	K	6-1	197	23	Georgia Tech
74	Skene, Doug	G	6-6	295	24	Michigan
53	Slade, Chris	LB	6-4	232	23	Virginia
22	Smith, Rod	CB	5-11	187	24	Notre Dame
63	Stanley, Sylvester	NT	6-2	283	24	Michigan
66	Stalen, Mark	G	6-8	308	24	Miami (OH)
41	Stephens, Eric	CB	5-10	170	24	Jacksonville St.
31	Thomas, Blain	RB	5-10	202	27	Penn State
83	Timpson, Michael	WR	5-10	175	27	Penn State
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	34	Iowa
34	Turner, Kevin	FB	6-1	224	25	Alabama
62	Tylski, Rich	G	6-4	287	23	Utah State
39	Washington, Jarrod	RB	6-1	205	22	Virginia
76	Washington, John	DE	6-4	290	31	Oklahoma St.
51	White, David	LB	6-2	235	24	Nebraska
96	Williams, Brent	DE	6-4	275	30	Toledo
40	Witherspoon, Derrick	RB	5-10	198	23	Clemson
27	Wren, Darryl	CB	6-1	188	27	Pittsburg St.
16	Zolak, Scott	OB	6-5	222	27	Maryland

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	McGinest, Willie	DE	6-4	255	USC
2	Lee, Kevin	WR	6-0	194	Alabama
3	Collier, Ervin	DT	6-4	270	Florida A&M
4	Burch, Joe	C	6-2	278	Texas Southern
4	Burke, John	TE	6-3	253	Virginia Tech
5	O'Neill, Pat	P	6-1	197	Syracuse
6	Hawkins, Steve	WR	6-5	208	Western Michigan
6	Lane, Max	OT	6-6	283	Navy
7	Walker, Jay	QB	6-3	227	Howard
7	Moore, Marty	LB	6-1	239	Kentucky

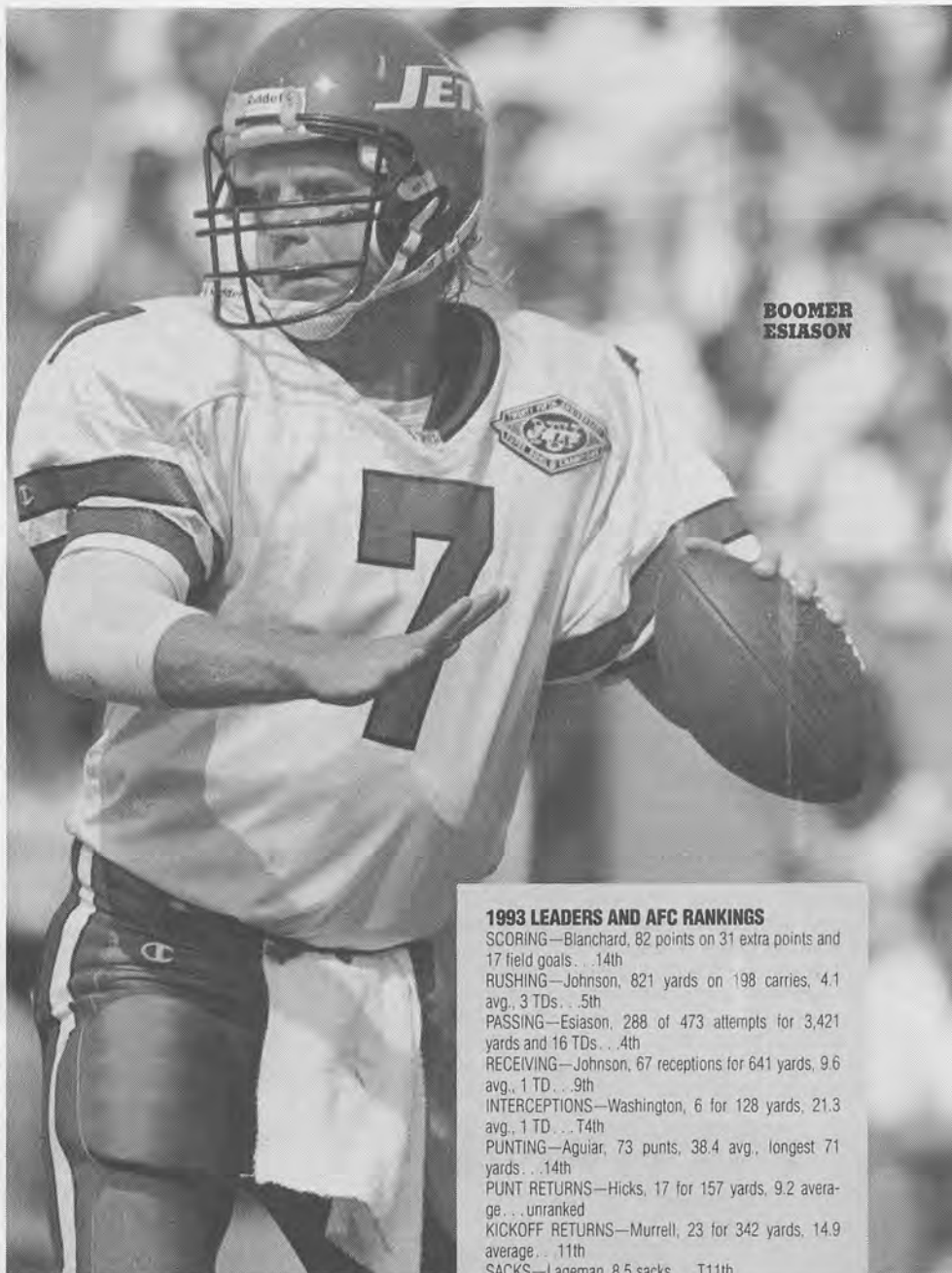
NEW YORK JETS

Pete Carroll, who inherited the Jets' head coaching job when Bruce Coslet made a goal-line stand about hiring an offensive coordinator and lost, thinks that the team's offensive breakdown in the last six games of the season wouldn't have happened if quarterback Boomer Esiason hadn't been handicapped by a stiff neck. That's not the way Boomer told it after Coslet's firing. He charged that some of the more prominent Jets cost Coslet his job and he named names.

"Johnny Mitchell has to figure out what he's doing 100 percent of the time, not just 50 percent of the time," said Esiason. "I look at the true superstars of this league, and I see them playing hurt and not being afraid to run a particular route and making the extra effort to make it to the next level [a barb aimed at Rob Moore]. We can't worry about who's making the Pro Bowl and who's not making it. There's a little bit of selfishness that is associated with some of the people on our team [another barb, aimed at safety Brian Washington]. You do what's expected of you."

How Boomer's words will end up playing when the Jets have to cope with another crisis isn't clear. Carroll made it clear that Boomer is still the man. Browning Nagle, the Jets' top draft choice in 1991, was cut.

Carroll doesn't agree with the theory that the Jets took their best shot with veteran free

BOOMER
ESIASONJEFF
LAGEMAN

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Blanchard, 82 points on 31 extra points and 17 field goals. . . 14th
RUSHING—Johnson, 821 yards on 198 carries, 4.1 avg., 3 TDs. . . 5th
PASSING—Esiason, 288 of 473 attempts for 3,421 yards and 16 TDs. . . 4th
RECEIVING—Johnson, 67 receptions for 641 yards, 9.6 avg., 1 TD. . . 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Washington, 6 for 128 yards, 21.3 avg., 1 TD. . . T4th
PUNTING—Aguilar, 73 punts, 38.4 avg., longest 71 yards. . . 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Hicks, 17 for 157 yards, 9.2 average. . . unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Murrell, 23 for 342 yards, 14.9 average. . . 11th
SACKS—Lageman, 8.5 sacks. . . T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Detroit (N)
13 At Philadelphia (N)
20 N.Y. GIANTS (N)
26 At Tampa Bay (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	At Buffalo	14-16
	11	DENVER	20-26
	18	At Miami	24-14
	25	CHICAGO (N)	—
October	2	At Cleveland	—
	9	INDIANAPOLIS	6-9
	16	NEW ENGLAND	45-7
	23	OPEN DATE	—
	30	At Indianapolis	31-17
November	6	BUFFALO	10-19
	13	At Green Bay	—
	20	At Minnesota	—
	27	MIAMI	27-10
December	4	At New England	6-0
	10	DETROIT	—
	18	SAN DIEGO	—
	24	At Houston	0-24

yards gained passing, third in completions and completion percentage, and tied for fourth in lowest percentage of interceptions. The completions and completion percentage were career highs. But the fact remains that there is a great deal of doubt about Boomer in 1994. In their last six games, the Jets averaged just six points and failed to score a touchdown in four of those games. They lost four of the six—and the wonder is that they won any of them. It may not have been Esiason's fault, especially considering his neck problem, but it happened on his watch and it seeded skepticism about his future.

The man most capable of relieving that skepticism is Johnson, voted the Jets' MVP after leading them in rushing (821 yards) and receptions (67 for 641 yards). He did not pick his spots, either. At Buffalo he ran for 94 yards and caught passes for 81 more. Chances are Johnson will get the ball far more than the 198 carries he logged last year. His blockers will

agents like Ronnie Lott and Leonard Marshall and the trades for Esiason and Johnny Johnson and it flat-out fizzled. The new coach still feels that this is a good team whose playoff push was stalled by injuries. "It wasn't just Boomer's neck," he said. "When we lost Johnny Johnson to injury it really hurt our offense. He was not only giving us the running we lacked for several years, but he was a strong part of our passing attack."

On the face of it, Esiason made a strong comeback after declining in Cincinnati. He finished fourth in the AFC passer ratings, third in

be Dwayne White and Roger Duffy, promoted from the ranks, at guard, Jim Sweeney at center, and Jeff Criswell and Siupeli Malamala at tackle. Fullback Brad Baxter can be as important to Johnson as any of the linemen.

When Chris Burkett made his surprise retirement announcement, it meant that Esiason would be throwing to mostly youngsters. Moore is the senior member, entering his fifth season. He caught 64 passes last year but scored only one touchdown. With Boomer's arm not as strong as it once was, the Jets opted to draft Ryan Yarborough, the Wyoming All-America who isn't supposed to have deep speed. You wouldn't know it from his college résumé. He caught 42 touchdown passes during his career, 18 of them 50 yards or longer. He led the nation with a 22-yard per-catch

average last season. It would not be shocking if Yarborough won a starting job. Lower in the draft came Orlando Parker of Troy State, who may start out returning kickoffs and contending for the title of "Fastest Man in the NFL." And this should be the year Mitchell begins terrifying secondaries. He did that early last season when he had a three-touchdown day against Philadelphia. That turned out to be half his season's production.

There are three major happenings that should improve the defense, Carroll's personal specialty. In fact the Jets, with some luck, could end up with one of the better units in the AFC. One is the return to health of middle linebacker Marvin Jones, whose chip fracture of the hip had the Jet brass frantic last year. Jones recovered well during the offseason. He hasn't started an NFL game yet, but if he doesn't excel this year it will be a major disappointment to the franchise. The second is the free-agent signing of Donald Evans of the Steelers as the new nose tackle. His speed should improve the interior pass rush. The third is the drafting of Aaron Glenn of Texas A&M, a cornerback with all-pro potential.

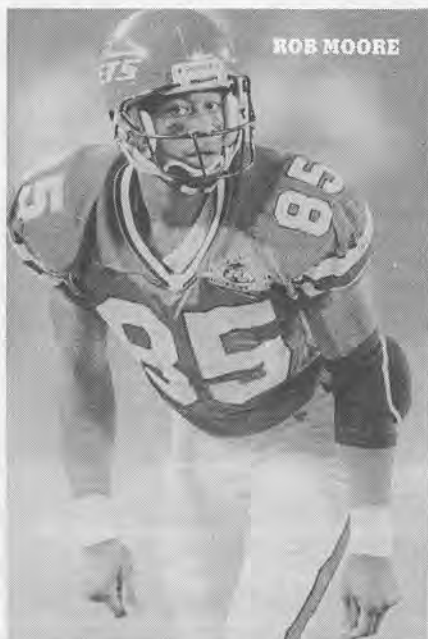
If Jones turns out to be the gem that every scout predicted, the linebacking could be savage. Mo Lewis, on the right side, had an immense season, making double-digit tackles in eight games. He was at his best against the best, with a dozen tackles and an interception in the Dallas game and 16 tackles in an early game against Buffalo. Bobby Houston is steady on the left side. It will take more than Jones's potential to beat out the reliable Kyle Clifton in the middle, however.

The coming of Evans means that Jeff Lageman is no longer the sole pass-rush threat coming from the Jet line. Lageman had 8½ sacks last year. When the offense sagged late in the season, end Marvin Washington was at his best, recording 31 tackles, 4½ sacks, and three forced fumbles in the final five games. Carroll needs a bigger contribution from Marshall at tackle. The ex-Giant broke his arm in the 12th game, but before that his play was spotty. The question is whether he has much fizz left at age 33. If he doesn't, then third-

round draftee Lou Benfatti of Penn State, an undersized guy with a motor that never stops, may play more than planned.

Eric Thomas, the ex-Bengal, was released, so Glenn will step right into the cornerback spot opposite James Hasty. Strong safety Brian Washington led the Jets with six interceptions. Ronnie Lott, at 35, no longer plays like a Hall of Famer, but he provides leadership and is the best the Jets have at free safety.

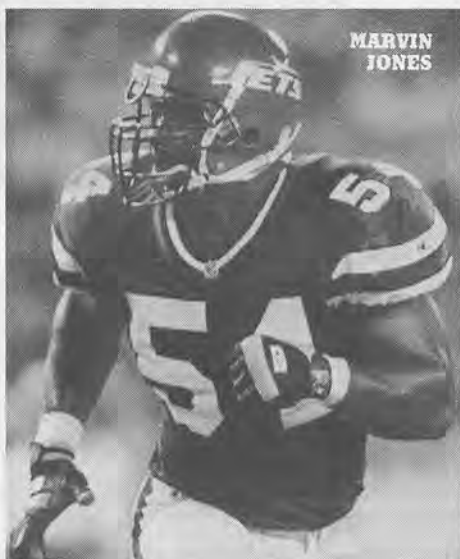
Cary Blanchard missed five of his last six field goals in the final five games. Brian Hansen, signed as a free agent from the Browns, averaged 44 yards and should upgrade the worst punting in the league. Glenn led the nation with a 19.9-yard punt-return average.



ROB MOORE



MO LEWIS



MARVIN JONES

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

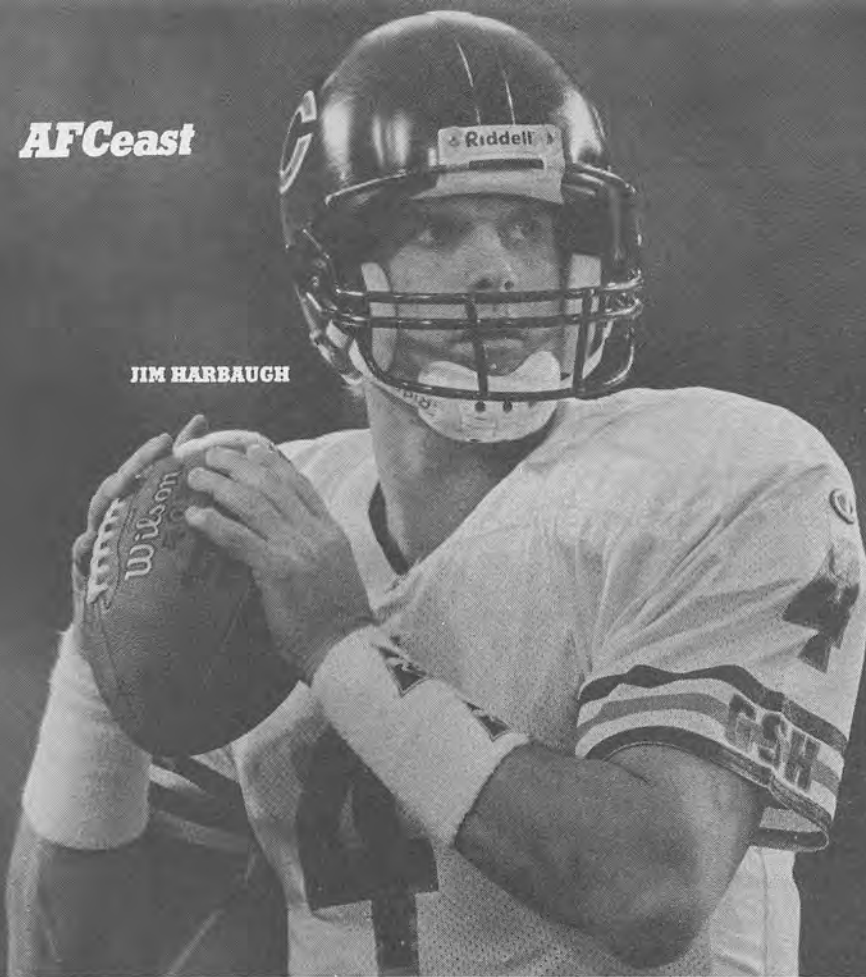
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
4	Aguilar, Louie	P	6-2	215	28	Utah State
20	Anderson, Richie	RB	5-2	215	23	Penn State
17	Anderson, Stevie	WR	6-5	205	24	Grambling
98	Barber, Kurt	LB	5-4	241	25	USC
30	Baxter, Brad	RB	6-1	235	27	Alabama State
84	Baxter, Fred	TE	6-3	250	23	Auburn
9	Blake, Jeff	QB	6-0	202	24	East Carolina
10	Blanchard, Cary	K	6-1	225	26	Oklahoma State
76	Brown, James	T	6-6	321	24	Virginia State
87	Burkett, Chris	WR	6-4	200	32	Jackson State
66	Cadigan, Dave	G	6-4	285	29	USC
50	Cadrez, Glenn	LB	6-3	240	24	Houston
82	Carpenter, Rob	WR	6-2	190	26	Syracuse
28	Chaffey, Pat	RB	6-1	220	27	Oregon State
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	32	TCU
69	Criswell, Jeff	T	6-7	291	30	Graceland
89	Dawkins, Dale	WR	6-1	190	28	Miami
52	Dixon, Cal	C	6-4	284	25	Florida
62	Duffy, Roger	OL	6-3	285	27	Penn State
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-5	220	33	Maryland
	Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	275	30	Winston-Salem
91	Frase, Paul	DL	6-5	270	29	Syracuse
21	Green, Victor	CB	5-9	195	25	Akron
96	Gunn, Mark	DL	6-5	279	26	Pittsburgh
	Hansen, Brian	P	6-2	215	31	Sioux Falls
40	Hasty, James	CB	6-0	201	29	Washington State
47	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	195	30	Oregon
55	Houston, Bobby	LB	6-2	239	27	N.C. State
39	Johnson, Johnny	RB	6-3	220	26	San Jose State
54	Jones, Marvin	LB	6-2	240	22	Florida State
56	Lageman, Jeff	DE	6-5	266	27	Virginia
57	Lewis, Mo	LB	6-3	250	25	Georgia
42	Lott, Ronnie	FS	6-1	203	35	USC
75	Malamala, Siupeli	T	6-5	308	25	Washington
70	Marshall, Leonard	DT	6-4	288	33	LSU
74	McIver, Everett	T	6-6	309	24	Elizabeth City St.
94	Mersereau, Scott	DT	6-3	275	29	So. Connecticut
86	Mitchell, Johnny	TE	6-3	237	23	Nebraska
85	Moore, Rob	WR	6-3	205	26	Syracuse
29	Murrell, Adrian	RB	5-11	205	24	West Virginia
8	Nagle, Browning	QB	6-3	225	26	Louisville
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	285	35	Rutgers
26	Pieri, Damon	FS	6-0	186	24	San Diego St.
27	Porter, Kevin	S	5-10	214	28	Auburn
37	Prior, Anthony	DB	5-11	185	24	Washington State
92	Rudolph, Coleman	DL	6-4	270	24	Georgia Tech
1	Shedd, Kenny	WR	5-9	166	23	Northern Iowa
53	Sweeney, Jim	OL	6-4	286	32	Pittsburgh
80	Thomson, James	TE	6-2	242	29	Cal-Fullerton
23	Turner, Marcus	DB	6-0	190	28	UCLA
68	Ware, David	OL	6-6	285	24	Virginia
48	Washington, Brian	SS	6-1	206	29	Nebraska
97	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	272	29	Idaho
67	White, Dwayne	G	6-2	315	27	Alcorn State
77	Willig, Matt	T	6-8	305	25	USC
31	Young, Lonnie	DB	6-1	196	31	Michigan State

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Glenn, Aaron	CB	5-8	184	Texas A&M
2	Yarborough, Ryan	WR	6-1	194	Wyoming
3	Benfatti, Lou	DT	6-3	277	Penn State
4	Parker, Orlando	WR	5-10	183	Troy State
5	Morris, Horace	LB	6-2	231	Tennessee
6	Lester, Fred	RB	6-0	235	Alabama A&M
7	Foley, Glenn	QB	6-0	212	Boston College

AF Ceast

JIM HARBAUGH



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

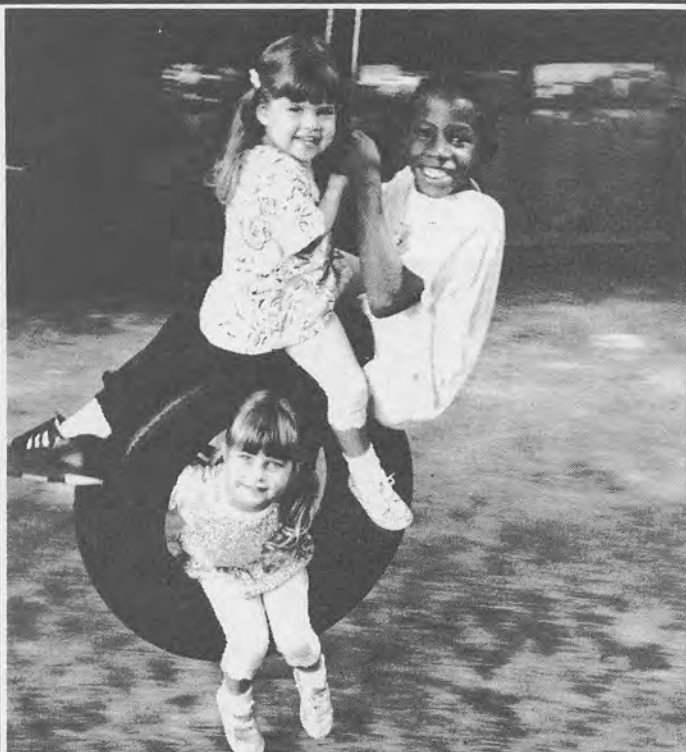
Will there be any justice for Ted Marchibroda? He performed two coaching miracles for this franchise and now he's one false move from eviction. Jim Irsay seemed to have the Colts moving in the right direction as their general manager, and then his father, owner Robert Irsay, brought in Bill Tobin, the ex-Bears personnel chief as GM. Tobin hired his own brother, Vince, as defensive coordinator, and the expectation around the NFL is that if the team does not get off to a good start, Vince will be the new head coach.

Two years ago, Marchibroda took over a 1-15 team and won nine games with it, barely missing the playoffs. Only one other feat like that had ever been accomplished in the NFL, and that was in 1975, when Marchibroda assumed command of the Baltimore Colts and converted a 2-12 team to a 10-4 division champion in one year. Marchibroda has been operating under a handicap in Indianapolis. He inherited ex-Colt head coach Rick Venturi as his defensive coordinator in '92 and he had no say in Vince Tobin's hiring this time.

Marchibroda was in favor of trying to rehabilitate the attitude of strong-armed quarterback Jeff George, but George was traded to Atlanta and Bill Tobin signed free agent Jim Harbaugh, whom he drafted in Chicago. On draft day, Tobin passed up a chance to select Trent Dilfer, one of the two top quarterback prospects available. To worsen the coach's problems, his best defensive player, end Steve Emtman, may not be recovered suffi-

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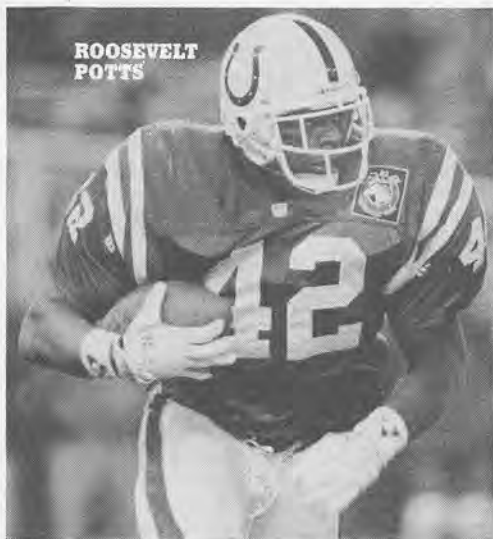
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**ROOSEVELT
POTTS**

ciently from his knee injury of a year ago to play at all in '94.

One thing seems certain for the Colts. They appear to be on their way to an improved defense—which should be easy, considering they finished last in the NFL in that category. Linebacker Tony Bennett arrived via free agency from Green Bay. After a long holdout and wrangle with the Packers, Bennett, still unhappy, had 6½ sacks. He's capable of twice that. The Colts already have a budding linebacking star in Quentin Coryatt and this year's draft brings Trev Alberts of Nebraska, a

potential superstar. Alberts had 15 sacks and 21 stops behind the line of scrimmage for the Huskers. Then, after dislocating his elbow in November, he played with a brace and recorded three sacks of Florida State's Charlie Ward in the Orange Bowl. Jeff Herrod is the fourth linebacker.

If Emtman is available, Tobin could employ the same type of anti-passer strategy he used when he coached the defense in New Orleans: Bennett and Alberts attacking from the outside, with Emtman and another giant, 6-7 Jon Hand, collapsing the middle. Even without Emtman, something like that may be tried. Still available are Tony Siragusa, Skip McClendon, and Thomas Sims. The incumbent secondary is Chris Goode and Eugene Daniel on the corners with Jason Belser at strong safety and Ray Buchanan, who started as a rookie, at free safety. It could look much different by midseason.

Harbaugh has to introduce himself to his receivers, but that's also true of the rest of the team. Tobin virtually purged the roster of veteran receivers when he took over. Part of those moves were caused by economics, part by artistic preference. Reggie Langhorne led the AFC in receiving with 85 catches but was released anyway, floated in the free market for months, and finally retired. Go figure. Jessie Hester, Clarence Verdin, and Aaron Cox were cut. The lone returnee is Sean Dawkins, who started only when Marchibroda used three receivers. For a first-round draft choice, Dawkins had a spotty season with a lot of drops and wandering concentration.

There will be a pronounced shift to the running game. Tobin announced that the passing game was now No. 4 on the Colt priority list. Rookie Marshall Faulk will be the principal performer. Harbaugh may find him a welcome target for passes, too. Faulk has been called a potential Thurman Thomas, with more speed.



MARSHALL FAULK

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ZEFROSS MOSS



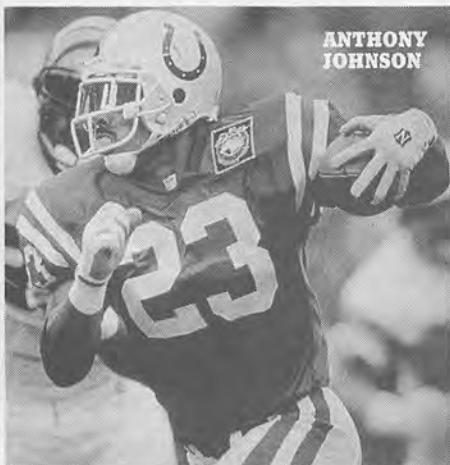
He's a game-breaker who comes up big in the biggest games. Bulky Roosevelt Potts led the Colts in rushing with 711 yards as a rookie, but he dropped the ball too much. With Faulk, Potts becomes the heavy-duty guy.

The draft brought the potential for improvement in the offensive line. The second-round selection was Eric Mahlum, California's outstanding center, and the third-rounder was tackle Jason Matthews of Texas A&M. Mah-

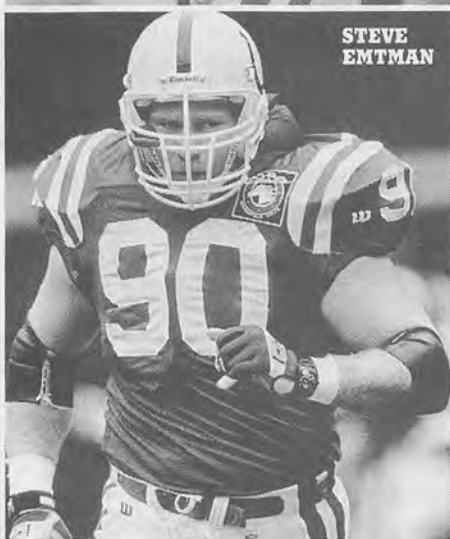
lum is versatile, which is vital since he will start at right guard with Kirk Lowdermilk, the expensive free agent, an anchor at center. The best thing that could happen to Faulk is that Will Wolford, the most expensive free agent, is healthy again at left tackle. Before the coming of Faulk, the Colts were the weakest ground team in the NFL.

Marchibroda's thorniest situation is Harbaugh. The consensus thinking around the NFL is that Harbaugh had his chance as a starting quarterback for the Bears and proved that he was just good enough to get his team beaten. He threw for just seven touchdown passes last year and now he's with a team that totaled only 10. Bill Tobin obviously has a different view of him. Marchibroda needs to pull off another miracle in order to survive.

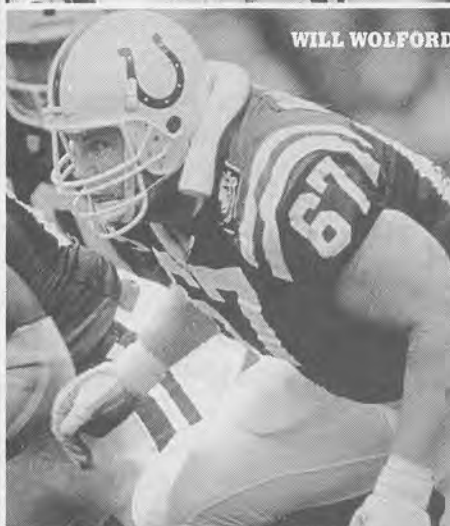
There is nothing wrong with the Colts' kicking game. Punter Rohn Stark averaged 43.3 yards and place-kicker Dean Biasucci went 26-for-31. □



ANTHONY
JOHNSON



STEVE
EMTMAN



WILL WOLFORD

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Biasucci, 93 points on 15 extra points and 26 field goals... 10th
RUSHING—Potts, 711 yards on 179 carries, 4.0 average... 11th
PASSING—George, 234 of 407 attempts for 2,526 yards and 8 TDs... 9th
RECEIVING—Langhorne, 85 receptions for 1,038 yards, 12.2 avg., 3 TD... 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Buchanan, 4 for 45 yards, 11.3 average... 16th
PUNTING—Stark, 83 punts, 43.3 avg., longest 65 yards... 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Verdin, 30 for 173 yards, 5.8 average... 14th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Verdin, 50 for 1,050 yards, 21.0 average... 4th
SACKS—Hand, 5.5 sacks... 117th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 SEATTLE (N)
 13 At Cincinnati (N)
 20 At Pittsburgh (N)
 25 CLEVELAND (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

September 4 HOUSTON
 11 At Tampa Bay
 18 At Pittsburgh
 25 CLEVELAND 23-10
 October 2 SEATTLE
 9 At N.Y. Jets 9-6
 16 At Buffalo 9-23
 23 WASHINGTON 24-30
 30 N.Y. JETS 17-31
 November 6 At Miami 27-41
 13 OPEN DATE
 20 At Cincinnati 9-6
 27 NEW ENGLAND (N) 9-6
 December 4 At Seattle
 11 At New England 0-38
 18 MIAMI 20-24
 24 BUFFALO 10-30

1993 SCORES

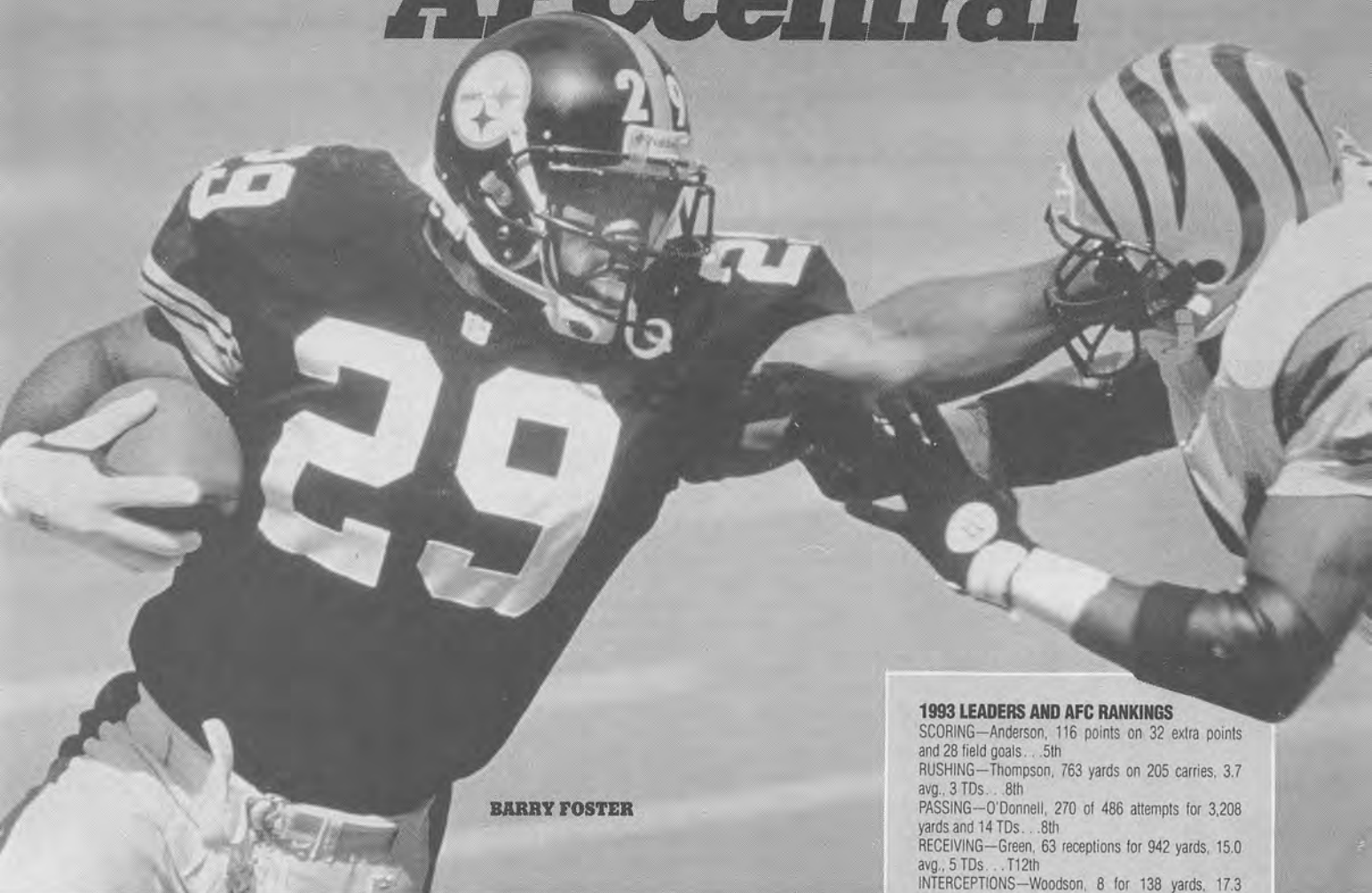
COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Ambrose, Ashley	DB	5-10	177	24	Miss. Valley St.
81	Arbuckle, Charles	TE	6-3	248	26	UCLA
86	Baker, Shannon	WR	5-9	185	23	Florida State
36	Baylor, John	DB	6-0	208	29	Southern Miss
29	Belser, Jason	DB	5-9	187	24	Oklahoma
56	Bennett, Tony	LB	6-2	243	27	Mississippi
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	190	32	Western Carolina
34	Buchanan, Ray	DB	5-9	193	23	Louisville
53	Bulcher, Paul	LB	6-0	230	31	Wayne State
71	Call, Kevin	OT	6-7	308	33	Colorado State
88	Cash, Kerry	TE	6-4	252	25	Texas
2	Cook, Mike	WR	6-4	205	23	Stanford
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB	6-3	250	24	Texas A&M
35	Culver, Rodney	RB	5-9	224	25	Notre Dame
38	Daniel, Eugene	DB	5-11	188	33	LSU
87	Dawkins, Sean	WR	6-4	213	23	California
69	Dixon, Randy	OG	6-3	305	29	Pittsburgh
90	Emtman, Steve	DT	6-4	300	24	Washington
48	Etheredge, Carlos	TE	6-5	236	24	Miami
37	Goode, Chris	DB	6-0	199	31	Alabama
59	Grant, Stephen	LB	6-0	231	25	West Virginia
75	Gray, Cecil	OT	6-4	292	26	North Carolina
30	Gray, Derwin	DB	5-10	190	23	BYU
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	301	31	Alabama
12	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	215	31	Michigan
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-0	249	28	Mississippi
25	Humphrey, Ronald	RB	5-10	201	25	Miss. Valley
23	Johnson, Anthony	RB	6-0	222	27	Notre Dame
11	Justin, Paul	QB	6-4	202	26	Arizona State
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-4	280	31	Ohio State
7	Malikowski, Don	DB	6-3	203	30	Virginia
61	McCoy, Tony	NT	6-0	279	25	Florida
57	McDonald, Devon	LB	6-4	240	25	Notre Dame
73	Moss, Zefross	OT	6-6	338	28	Alabama State
32	O'Neal, Robert	DB	6-1	194	23	Clemson
96	Peguese, Willis	DE	6-4	273	28	Miami
42	Potts, Roosevelt	RB	6-0	258	23	NE Louisiana
52	Ratigan, Brian	LB	6-4	226	24	Notre Dame
68	Ray, John	OT	6-8	350	25	West Virginia
92	Sims, Thomas	DL	6-2	291	27	Pittsburgh
98	Siragusa, Tony	NT	6-3	303	27	Pittsburgh
1	Stablein, Brian	WR	6-1	185	24	Ohio State
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	35	Florida State
79	Staysniak, Joe	OT	6-4	296	28	Ohio State
94	Thomas, Marquise	LB	6-4	255	23	Mississippi
28	Toner, Ed	RB	6-0	240	26	Boston College
2	Vander Poel, Mark	OT	6-7	303	26	Colorado
62	Vickers, Kipp	OL	6-2	275	25	Miami
67	Wolford, Will	OT	6-5	300	30	Vanderbilt

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Faulk, Marshall	RB	5-10	207	San Diego State
1	Alberts, Trev	LB	6-4	203	Nebraska
1	Mahlum, Eric	C	6-4	285	California
3	Matthews, Jason	OT	6-5	274	Texas A&M
4	Banta, Brad	TE	6-6	245	USC
5	Covington, John	DB	6-1	211	Notre Dame
6	Warren, Lamont	RB	6-1	195	Colorado
7	Teichelman, Lance	DT	6-4	274	Texas A&M

AFCcentral



BARRY FOSTER

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

After two years on the job, Bill Cowher, the young head coach, took a silent vow: No more Mr. Nice Guy. When a blocked punt cost the Steelers a playoff victory over Kansas City, Cowher promptly fired John Guy and hired Bobby April, the highly regarded special-teams' coach from the Atlanta Falcons. Then Adrian Cooper, the tight end who admitted that he wasn't giving 100 percent because of a salary dispute with the front office, was traded to Minnesota. Donald Evans, loudly crabbing about management, was allowed to sign with the Jets.

When a team plays like a champion one week and a punching bag the next, a harder line seems called for and Cowher is ready to establish it. Pittsburgh relinquished its division championship to Houston a year ago, but now that the Oilers have been picked apart by free agency, the title is available for reclaiming. The Steelers are not talented enough to reclaim it with inconsistent football. They have to show up to work more often this season. Consider some of the inconsistencies:

On a Monday night in mid-November, the Steelers met the Buffalo Bills in Three River Stadium and dominated them. "Dominate"

may be too weak a word. They outit, overwhelmed, and embarrassed the Bills. The final score was 23-0. One week later in Denver, the Broncos had their highest scoring output of the season in beating the Steelers 37-13. The Steelers went down to Miami in December and beat the Dolphins, then one of the league's hottest teams. The next week they lost their must game to Houston in Pittsburgh. Not only that, the following week in Seattle, the Seahawks, playing without their 1,000-yard rusher, Chris Warren, gained 267 yards on the ground in a 16-6 victory. Finally, in the playoff game in Kansas City, the Steelers harried Joe Montana and knocked him out of the game. They stuffed Marcus Allen. At one time they had a 10-point lead. All they had to do was execute a punt and they would advance to the quarterfinals. The kick was blocked and the Chiefs won in overtime.

Something, namely team chemistry, is missing from the Steelers, and Cowher has to find it this season. Some of the problems were swept from the dressing room, but some remain. Problem A for 1994 is Barry Foster, the talented but enigmatic runner. Foster suffered an ankle injury. The Steelers told him he needed rest, not surgery. He insisted upon surgery

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 116 points on 32 extra points and 28 field goals... 5th
RUSHING—Thompson, 763 yards on 205 carries, 3.7 avg., 3 TDs... 8th
PASSING—O'Donnell, 270 of 486 attempts for 3,208 yards and 14 TDs... 8th
RECEIVING—Green, 63 receptions for 942 yards, 15.0 avg., 5 TDs... T12th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woodson, 8 for 138 yards, 17.3 avg., 1 TD... 2nd
PUNTING—Royals, 89 punts, 42.5 avg., longest 61 yards... 9th
PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 42 for 338 yards, 8.0 average... 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Woodson, 15 for 294 yards, 19.6 average... unranked
SACKS—Greene, 12.5 sacks... T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	At Miami (N)
	13	L.A. RAIDERS (N)
	20	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	26	At Washington (N)

1994 SCHEDULE

		1993 SCORES
September	4	DALLAS.....23-28
	11	At Cleveland.....—
	18	INDIANAPOLIS.....—
	25	At Seattle.....6-16
October	3	HOUSTON (N).....17-26
	9	OPEN DATE.....—
	16	CINCINNATI.....34-7
	23	At N.Y. Giants.....—
	30	At Arizona (N).....—
November	6	At Houston.....3-23
	14	BUFFALO (N).....23-0
	20	MIAMI.....21-20
	27	At L.A. Raiders.....—
December	4	At Cincinnati.....24-16
	11	PHILADELPHIA.....—
	18	CLEVELAND.....16-9
	24	At San Diego.....16-3

and was lost for the year. It did not go well with management or with some of his teammates. Leroy Thompson gave a pretty good imitation of Foster a couple of times, but not often enough. Foster is the guy. In the background is rookie Byron "Bam" Morris, a power back who came out of Texas Tech a year early. When Merrill Hoge signed with the Bears, the Steelers signed veteran Seattle fullback John L. Williams, who will run and block and catch about 50 passes.

Quarterback Neil O'Donnell's statistics weren't anything fabulous (3,208 yards, 14 touchdown passes), but he passed the Pittsburgh leadership test, especially when he played with a painful elbow injury. Cowher hopes he saw the real O'Donnell in the playoff game when he threw for three touchdowns and no interceptions. The best news for O'Donnell is the coming of Colorado's Charles Johnson, the best receiver in the draft. Better



ERIC GREEN

than his 57 receptions as a senior was the news that he dropped only three balls all season. Steeler receivers sometimes exceed that by the end of the first quarter. When Colorado played that infamous brawl with Miami last year, Johnson had seven receptions in the second half alone. O'Donnell should love him.

The top-ranked Steeler receiver was tight end Eric Green, 16th in the AFC with 63 catches. Green can be irritating at times, such as when he called \$2 million a year "peanuts," but not many huge tight ends average 15 yards per catch. The best hope among the incumbent wide receivers may be Andre Hastings, whose bad judgment led him to leave Georgia after his junior year. He wasn't ready as a rookie but maybe he will be now.

The offensive line has the potential to get better. There is no question about Dermontti Dawson, the all-pro center. There is about Carlton Haselrig, the right guard. In 1992 he was in the Pro Bowl. In 1993 he was in a rehab center. Duval Love is a decent left guard. Leon Searcy is about to arrive as a first-rate tackle, and John Jackson will be playing for a new contract. Justin Strzelczyk is a reserve.

The Steelers drafted three defensive linemen in the first four rounds, which should tell you something. They also signed Ray Seals as a free agent. He had 8½ sacks, tops on the Bucs last year. Cowher needs to keep Gerald Williams and Joel Steed healthy after a season in which they were bothered by nagging injuries. The rookies are Brentson Buckner of Clemson, Jason Gildon of Oklahoma State, and Taase Faumui of Hawaii.

The linebacking is a nice blend of experience and youth. Greg Lloyd led the team in tackles again. He is among the finest team leaders in the NFL. Kevin Greene, the ex-Ram, made a smashing debut with 12½ sacks. Levon Kirkland arrived as an inside force and Chad Brown, forced to start as a rookie on the inside, could become a star. Rod Woodson was the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year and maybe its best all-round play-

er at cornerback. With D.J. Johnson having defected to Atlanta, Deon Figures moves up as Woodson's partner. The nickel back as a rookie, Figures demonstrated resilience. He was barbecued by John Elway in Denver one week but came back with a strong game against Houston the next. Darren Perry and Carnell Lake round out the secondary at the safety spots.

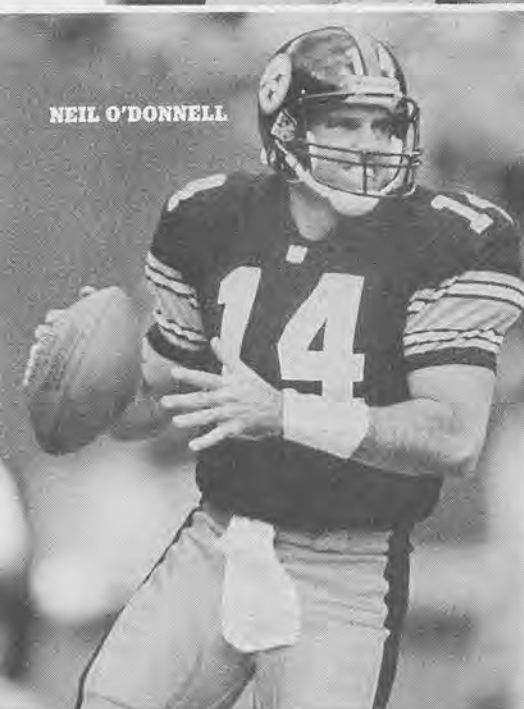
Despite the blocked punt in the playoff, Mark Royals is back as the punter. Gary Anderson had a phenomenal year, missing only two of 30 field goals. They no longer ask him to kick beyond midfield.

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5-11	179	35	Syracuse
43	Avery, Steve	FB	6-2	226	28	N. Michigan
50	Barnes, Reggie	LB	6-1	235	25	Oklahoma
94	Brown, Chad	LB	6-2	240	24	Colorado
87	Cooper, Adrian	TE	6-5	270	26	Oklahoma
42	Cuthbert, Randy	RB	6-2	225	24	Duke
80	Davenport, Charles	WR	6-3	210	26	N.C. State
64	Davidson, Kenny	DE	6-5	275	27	LSU
63	Dawson, Dermontti	C	6-2	286	29	Kentucky
23	Dukes, Chuckie	RB	5-9	202	24	Boston College
21	Figures, Deon	CB	6-0	200	24	Colorado
79	Finn, Mike	OT	6-4	290	27	Ark.-Pine Bluff
36	Foggie, Fred	DB	6-0	200	25	Minnesota
29	Foster, Barry	RB	5-10	218	26	Arkansas
60	Gammion, Kendall	C	6-4	286	26	Pittsburg State
81	Graham, Jeff	WR	6-2	196	25	Ohio State
86	Green, Eric	TE	6-5	280	27	Liberty
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	32	Auburn
22	Griffin, Larry	S	6-0	202	31	North Carolina
28	Haller, Alan	CB	5-11	185	24	Michigan State
77	Haselrig, Carlton	G	6-1	295	28	Pitt-Johostown
88	Hastings, Andie	WR	6-0	188	24	Georgia
76	Henry, Kevin	DE	6-4	275	26	Miss. State
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	229	35	Oregon
54	Hoffmann, Dave	LB	6-2	233	24	Washington
65	Jackson, John	OT	6-6	297	29	Eastern Kentucky
25	Jones, Gary	S	6-2	214	27	Texas A&M
30	Jones, Victor	FB	5-8	215	27	LSU
84	Jordan, Tim	TE	6-3	240	28	Indiana
85	Keith, Craig	TE	6-3	262	23	Lenoir-Rhyne
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB	6-1	252	25	Clemson
37	Lake, Carnell	SS	6-1	210	27	UCLA
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	226	29	Fl. Valley St.
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	288	31	UCLA
56	Mack, Rico	LB	6-4	239	23	Appalachian St.
89	Milis, Ernie	WR	5-11	192	26	Florida
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	230	28	Maryland
55	Olavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	224	27	Pittsburgh
68	Palelei, Lonnie	G	6-3	311	24	UNLV
39	Perry, Darren	FS	5-11	196	26	Penn State
3	Royals, Mark	P	6-5	215	30	Appalachian State
	Seals, Ray	DE	6-3	270	29	Nore
72	Searcy, Leon	OT	6-3	304	25	Miami
24	Shelton, Richard	S	5-10	202	28	Liberty
2	Shepherd, Leslie	WR	5-11	189	25	Temple
61	Simpson, Tim	OL	6-2	296	25	Illinois
69	Solomon, Ariel	OL	6-5	290	26	Colorado
93	Steed, Joel	NT	6-2	295	25	Colorado
20	Stone, Dwight	WR/RB	6-0	180	30	Middle Tenn. St.
11	Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	199	29	Georgia Tech
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	OL	6-6	295	26	Maine
96	Sutton, Ricky	DE	6-2	281	23	Auburn
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	207	25	Winston-Salem St.
34	Thompson, Leroy	RB	5-11	217	25	Penn State
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	195	32	Ohio State
98	Williams, Gerald	DE	6-3	288	31	Auburn
	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	231	30	Florida
27	Williams, Willie	CB	5-9	188	24	Western Carolina
26	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	200	29	Purdue
90	Zgonina, Jeff	DT	6-1	284	24	Purdue

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Johnson, Charles	WR	6-0	188	Colorado
2	Buckner, Brentson	DT	6-2	300	Clemson
3	Gildon, Jason	DE	6-4	224	Oklahoma State
3	Morris, Byron	RB	6-1	235	Texas Tech
4	Faumui, Taase	DE	6-4	270	Hawaii
5	Bell, Myron	DE	6-0	198	Michigan State
5	Brown, Gary	DT	6-5	313	Georgia Tech
6	Muller, Jim	QB	6-4	208	Michigan State
6	Ravotti, Eric	LB	6-3	247	Penn State
7	Abrams, Brice	RB	6-1	247	Michigan State



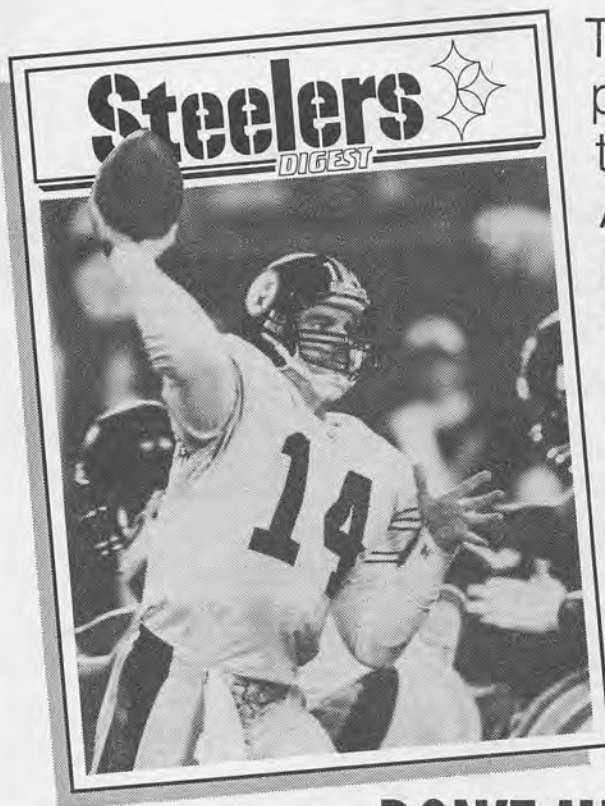
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HOUSTON OILERS

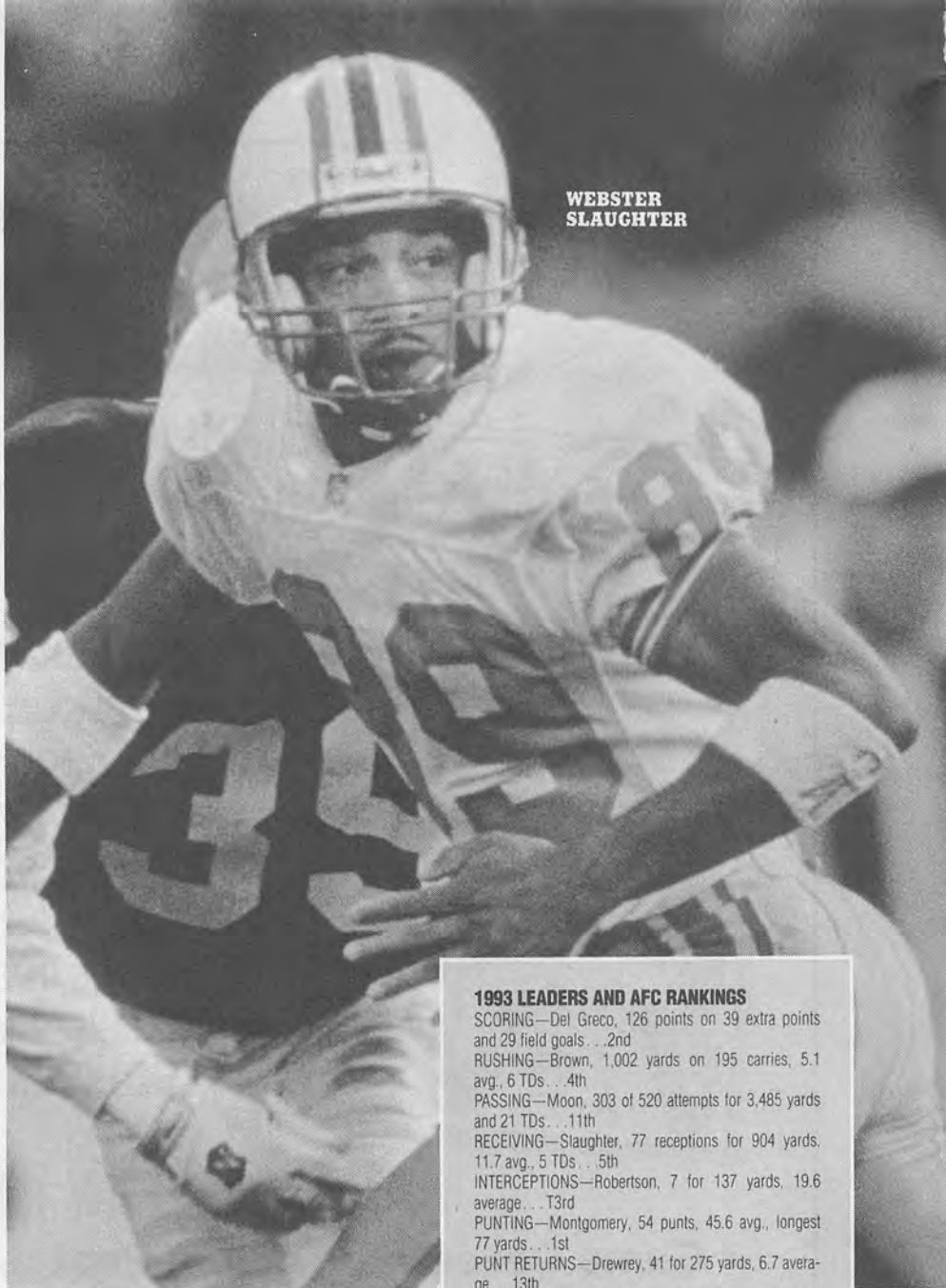
Warren Moon is gone. So are Buddy Ryan, Mike Munchak, and both defensive ends who spurred the NFL's top pass rush. In all likelihood, gone as well is the Central Division championship. The Oilers floated one last Super Bowl balloon and Kansas City's Joe Montana shot it down.

It's back to the drawing board with Cody Carlson, Gary Brown, and the new breed. The offense will include a tight end for the first time in five seasons. This is a year to retool. Owner Bud Adams gave them one more year to win big. From October 17 to January 15, that's all they did—win 11 in a row. They had Kansas City by the throat in the playoffs too, but Montana rallied the Chiefs and Super Bowl fever subsided in Houston. To underline his change in policy, the owner promoted Floyd Reese to general manager. Now who knows what the future brings?

Carlson, who barely got his beak wet in '93, is the present and future quarterback. He's no rookie. At 30, this is his eighth season. There have been years when he did nothing but mop up and years when he started. In 1992 he started the last six games and finished with the best completion record in the AFC. Will he bring the charge that Moon brought to this team? Coach Jack Pardee hired veteran NFL offensive guru Dick Coury to help him, even though Kevin Gilbride is still the offensive coordinator. Last year the Oilers scored 270 of their 368 points during that season-ending winning streak. Chances are the fans won't see scoring like that this year.

The expectation is that Brown, who bounced around from defense to offense at Penn State, will be a major part of the Oiler offense in his fourth season with them. After he beat out Lorenzo White, he ran for 1,002 yards on 195 carries. His 5.1-yard average was exceeded by only one back in the NFL who had more than 100 carries—Emmitt Smith of Dallas. A 233-pounder with a wide wheel base, Brown has great balance.

In what may have been the last season of pure run-and-shoot offense, the Oiler receiv-

WEBSTER
SLAUGHTERGARY
BROWN

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Del Greco, 126 points on 39 extra points and 29 field goals... 2nd

RUSHING—Brown, 1,002 yards on 195 carries, 5.1 avg., 6 TDs... 4th

PASSING—Moon, 303 of 520 attempts for 3,485 yards and 21 TDs... 11th

RECEIVING—Slaughter, 77 receptions for 904 yards, 11.7 avg., 5 TDs... 5th

INTERCEPTIONS—Robertson, 7 for 137 yards, 19.6 average... T3rd

PUNTING—Montgomery, 54 punts, 45.6 avg., longest 77 yards... 1st

PUNT RETURNS—Drewrey, 41 for 275 yards, 6.7 average... 13th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Drewrey, 15 for 293 yards, 19.5 average... unranked

SACKS—Jones, 13.0 sacks... 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	31	At Kansas City (N)
August	6	SAN DIEGO at San Antonio, TX (N)
	15	Dallas at Mexico City, MX
	20	BUFFALO at San Antonio, TX (N)
	27	L.A. RAIDERS

1994 SCHEDULE

1993 SCORES

September	4	At Indianapolis	—
	11	At Dallas	—
	18	BUFFALO	7-35
	25	CINCINNATI	28-12
October	3	At Pittsburgh (N)	26-17
	9	OPEN DATE	—
	13	CLEVELAND (N)	19-17
	24	At Philadelphia (N)	—
	30	At L.A. Raiders	—
November	6	PITTSBURGH	23-3
	13	At Cincinnati	38-3
	21	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	—
	27	At Cleveland	27-20
December	4	ARIZONA	—
	11	SEATTLE	24-14
	18	At Kansas City	30-0
	24	N.Y. JETS	24-0

ers had their usual eye-popping numbers. Webster Slaughter caught 77 passes, Ernest Givins 68, and Haywood Jeffries 66. Free agency threatened that lineup. The draft brings Malcom Seabron of Fresno State, who was hurt as a senior but led the nation with a 23.8-yard average as a junior. As a reintroduction to the tight end, the Oilers signed Pat Carter of the Rams as a free agent. He should help Brown's running statistics. Roderick Lewis of Arizona, possibly the fastest tight end in the draft, should help Carlson.

The offensive line will be reshaped. The retirement of Munchak, the great guard, is one reason. There could be another shift if Brad Hopkins can't improve on the last few games of his rookie year. It could be that he can't handle tackle and will have to be played at guard. If that happens, Bruce Matthews might have to be shifted to tackle. Doug Dawson

and David Williams are the constants on the right side at guard and tackle, respectively. The key may be how well John Flannery, who can play center and tackle, recovers from his blown-out knee. Adams had to match offer sheets to keep reserves Kevin Donnalley and Erik Norgard. The latter can play center as well or guard.

Ryan may be gone but his defensive system lives on. To replace him, the Oilers hired Jeff Fisher, San Francisco's defensive backfield coach. Before he worked for the 49ers, he was the Rams' defensive coordinator. Not only did he play for Ryan with the Bears, he was his defensive coordinator in Philadelphia, the youngest in the NFL at the time. The free-agent defections of ends William Fuller and Sean Jones creates the major worry. Henry Ford of Arkansas was drafted to play right end even though Keith McCants is the nominal starter. Lee Williams, always unhappy because he didn't get to play left end, now inherits the position. The Oilers need a year from him that ranks with his best in San Diego. Ray Childress is still the rock inside. Glenn Montgomery is his partner. Rookie Jeremy Nunley

of Alabama can provide depth.

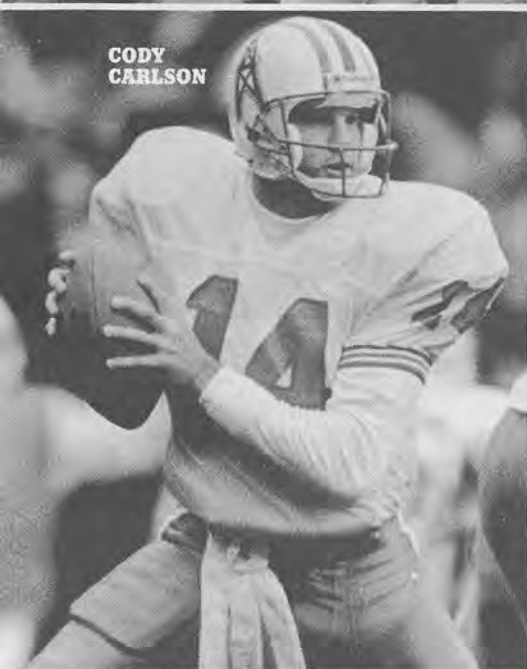
Michael Barrow moves outside to join Eddie Robinson in flanking middle linebacker Al Smith. Lamar Lathon will play a lot. Marcus Robertson is back from the disabled list to play free safety alongside Bubba McDowell on the strong side. Darryll Lewis should reclaim right corner opposite Cris Dishman.

Pro Bowler Rich Camarillo, dropped by Arizona in a salary-cap move, is the new punter. Al Del Greco had the best year of his career, setting an Oiler record with 126 points. He kicked 29 field goals in 34 attempts, connecting on four of seven from beyond 50.

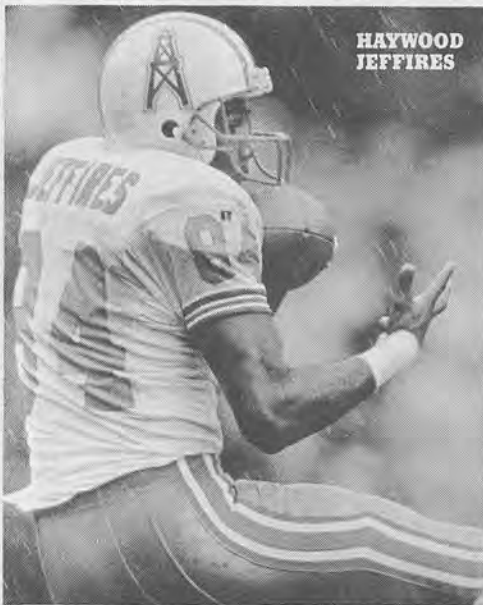
ERNEST GIVINS



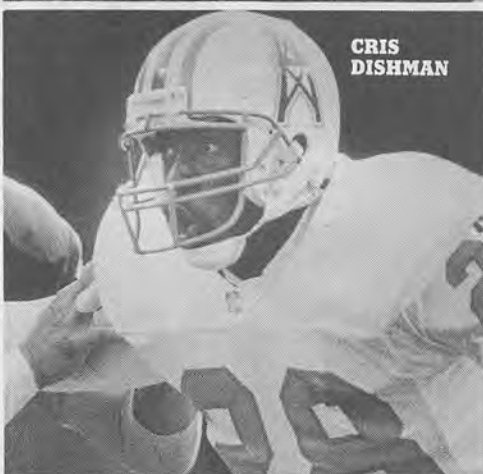
CODY CARLSON



HAYWOOD JEFFRIES



CRIS DISHMAN

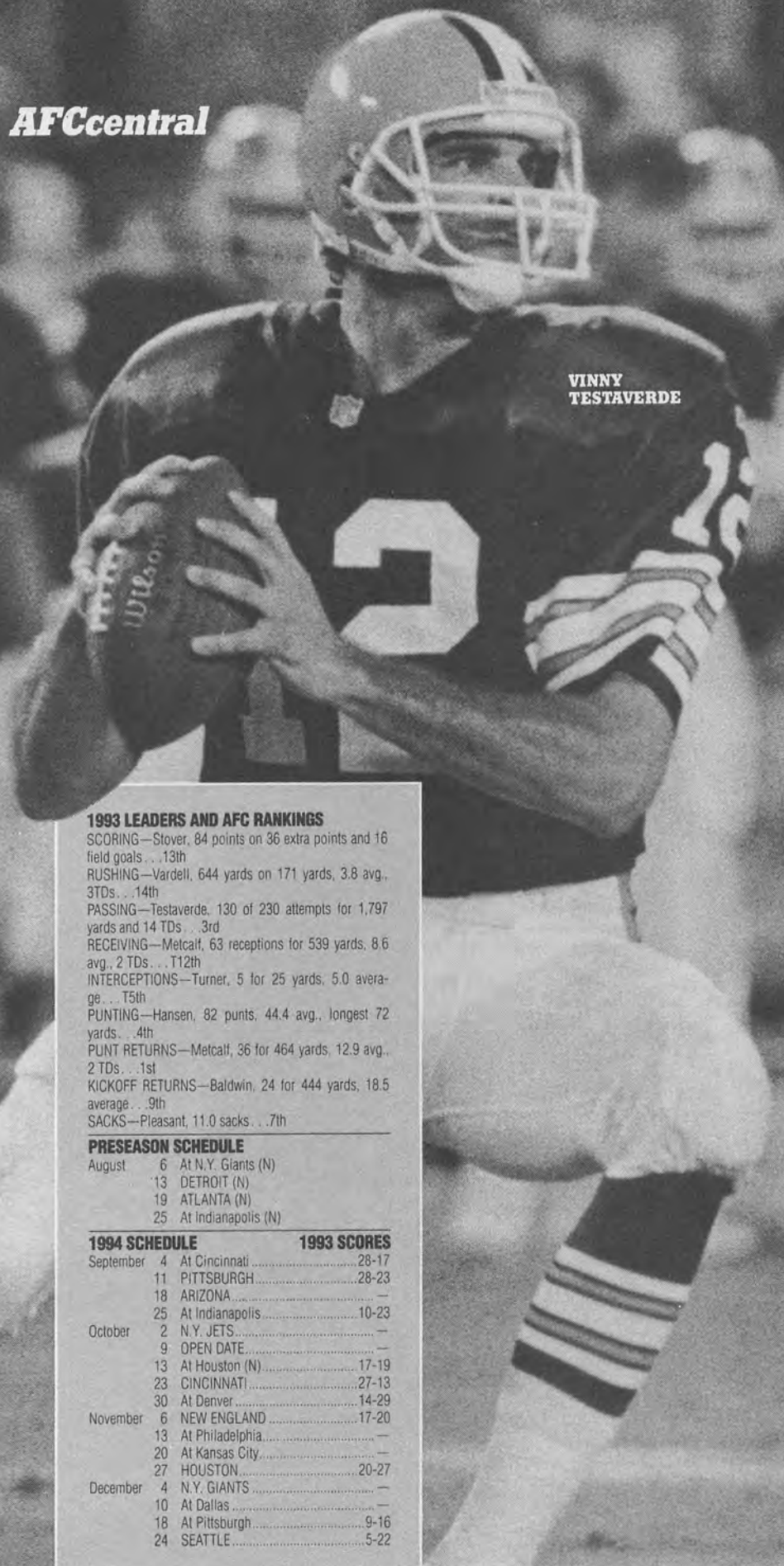


OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
36	Aldridge, Melvin	S	6-2	195	24	Murray State
51	Barrow, Michael	LB	6-1	236	24	Miami
23	Bishop, Blaine	DB	5-8	197	24	Ball State
59	Bowden, Joe	LB	5-11	230	24	Oklahoma
33	Brown, Gary	RB	5-11	233	25	Penn State
17	Brown, Reggie	WR	6-1	195	24	Alabama State
22	Brown, Tony	CB	5-9	183	24	Fresno State
	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	195	35	Washington
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	202	31	Baylor
46	Carter, Pat	TE	6-4	258	28	Florida State
79	Childress, Ray	DT	6-6	272	32	Texas A&M
87	Coleman, Pat	WR	5-7	176	27	Mississippi
66	Dawson, Doug	G	6-3	288	33	Texas
3	Del Greco, Al	PK	5-10	202	32	Auburn
28	Dishman, Cris	CB	6-0	188	29	Purdue
77	Donnalley, Kevin	T	6-5	305	26	North Carolina
38	Dumas, Mike	S	5-11	181	25	Indiana
80	Duncan, Curtis	WR	5-11	184	29	Northwestern
55	Flannery, John	G/C	6-3	304	25	Syracuse
92	Ford, Henry	DE	6-3	284	23	Arkansas
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	178	30	Louisville
82	Hannah, Travis	WR	5-7	161	24	USC
27	Hoage, Terry	S	6-2	201	32	Georgia
72	Hopkins, Brad	T	6-3	306	24	Illinois
24	Jackson, Steve	CB	5-8	182	25	Purdue
84	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	201	30	N.C. State
56	Kozak, Scott	LB	6-3	222	29	Oregon
57	Lathon, Lamar	LB	6-3	252	27	Houston
29	Lewis, Darryll	CB	5-9	183	26	Arizona
58	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	240	32	Florida
47	Maston, Le'Shai	RB	6-1	215	24	Baylor
74	Matthews, Bruce	C	6-5	298	33	USC
78	McCants, Keith	DE	6-3	265	26	Alabama
25	McDowell, Bubba	S	6-1	198	28	Miami
48	Mills, John Henry	TE	6-0	222	25	Wake Forest
94	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6-0	282	27	Houston
9	Montgomery, Greg	P	6-4	210	30	Michigan State
64	Norgard, Erik	OL	6-1	282	29	Colorado
93	Nunley, Jeremy	DE	6-5	278	23	Alabama
26	Orlando, Bo	S	5-10	180	28	West Virginia
7	Richardson, Bucky	QB	6-1	228	25	Texas A&M
68	Roberts, Tim	DT	6-6	318	25	So. Mississippi
31	Robertson, Marcus	S	5-11	197	25	Iowa State
50	Robinson, Eddie	LB	6-1	245	24	Alabama State
	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	217	31	USC
89	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-1	175	30	San Diego St.
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	244	30	Utah State
71	Teeter, Mike	DT	6-2	260	27	Michigan
70	Thomas, Stan	T	6-5	295	26	Texas
32	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	30	Oklahoma
88	Wellman, Gary	WR	5-9	173	27	USC
44	White, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	222	28	Michigan State
73	Williams, David	T	6-5	292	28	Florida
97	Williams, Lee	DL	6-6	275	32	Bethune-Cookman

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Ford, Henry	DE/DT	6-3	283	Arkansas
2	Nunley, Jeremy	DE	6-5	265	Alabama
3	Seabron, Malcolm	WR	6-0	180	Fresno State
4	Davis, Michael	DB	6-2	191	Cincinnati
4	Jackson, Sean	RB	6-2	222	Florida State
5	Lewis, Roderick	TE	6-5	251	Arizona
5	Reid, Jim	OT	6-7	305	Virginia
6	Gissendanner, Lee	WR	5-9	175	Northwestern
6	Wortham, Barron	LB	6-0	230	UTEP
7	Halt, Lemanski	LB	6-1	220	Alabama



1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stover, 84 points on 36 extra points and 16 field goals...13th
RUSHING—Vardell, 644 yards on 171 yards, 3.8 avg., 3 TDs...14th
PASSING—Testaverde, 130 of 230 attempts for 1,797 yards and 14 TDs...3rd
RECEIVING—Metcalf, 63 receptions for 539 yards, 8.6 avg., 2 TDs...12th
INTERCEPTIONS—Turner, 5 for 25 yards, 5.0 average...15th
PUNTING—Hansen, 82 punts, 44.4 avg., longest 72 yards...4th
PUNT RETURNS—Metcalf, 36 for 464 yards, 12.9 avg., 2 TDs...1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Baldwin, 24 for 444 yards, 18.5 average...9th
SACKS—Pleasant, 11.0 sacks...7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 At N.Y. Giants (N)
 13 DETROIT (N)
 19 ATLANTA (N)
 25 At Indianapolis (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

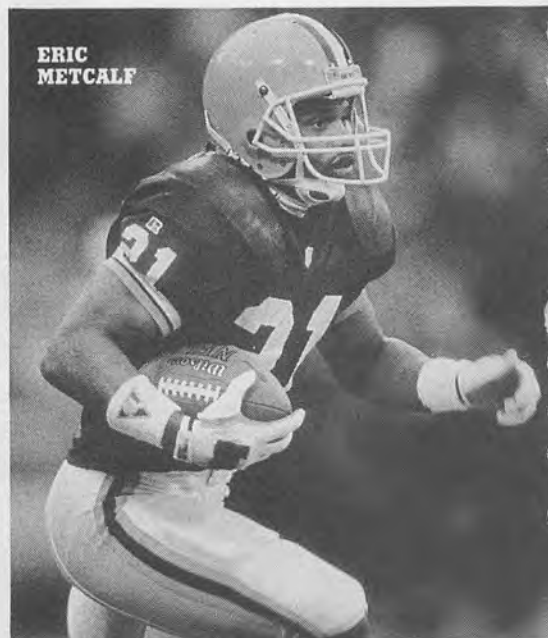
September	4	At Cincinnati	28-17
	11	PITTSBURGH	28-23
	18	ARIZONA	—
	25	At Indianapolis	10-23
October	2	N.Y. JETS	—
	9	OPEN DATE	—
	13	At Houston (N)	17-19
	23	CINCINNATI	27-13
	30	At Denver	14-29
November	6	NEW ENGLAND	17-20
	13	At Philadelphia	—
	20	At Kansas City	—
	27	HOUSTON	20-27
December	4	N.Y. GIANTS	—
	10	At Dallas	—
	18	At Pittsburgh	9-16
	24	SEATTLE	5-22

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Would you trust Vinny Testaverde and Bill Belichick to take you where you have never been, namely the Super Bowl? That's what Art Modell, the Browns' frustrated owner, is doing. Belichick, the control-obsessed coach, has to regain his credibility with the Cleveland fans and his players after shooting himself in the foot early last season. The Browns were 5-2 when he dumped the popular Bernie Kosar while Testaverde was injured and unable to play for a month. The explanation was that Kosar's "skills had diminished." Most NFL people will confirm that, but the Browns had no other viable quarterback at the time. By the time Testaverde returned, the season was in a shambles and the Browns finished 7-9.

Now the Browns start the era of Vinny. They expect that he will be the quarterback he never was in Tampa Bay after the Bucs made him the No. 1 pick in the 1987 draft. His NFL career to date bears no evidence that Testaverde can be a championship quarterback. The skeptics in Cleveland maintain that his principal value is that he will do what Belichick tells him without arguing or even questioning, something the cerebral Kosar seldom did.

Which brings up Belichick's status. His three-year record in Cleveland is 20-28. When the Browns began collapsing after Kosar's departure and "Bill Must Go!" became the theme song in Cleveland Stadium, Modell responded emotionally by giving Belichick a five-year extension on his contract. The owner



did the same thing with Sam Rutigliano in a similar situation in 1983. Five games into the next season he fired Rutigliano. There was a call for Belichick to loosen control a bit and hire an offensive coordinator. Titles have been rearranged, but essentially Belichick remains his own offensive coordinator. If the Browns are to move up in the division, they'll probably do it with their defense and a running game. Ironically, that's the sort of team they were under Marty Schottenheimer, Belichick's far more successful predecessor. Belichick remains stoically optimistic. "I think we could

significantly improve the team with two or three key guys," he said. "I think there's going to be a big jump this year."

The Browns went into the free-agent market for tight end Walter Reeves of Phoenix, cornerback Don Griffin of San Francisco, and guard Mike Withycombe of San Diego. Their "big-jump" capacity is minimal. If there is even a minor jump, it is more likely to come from the two first-round draft choices: Alabama cornerback Antonio Langham and Michigan wide receiver Derrick Alexander. Langham is a bona fide big-play man. He intercepted 18 passes during his three years as a Crimson Tide starter. He also scored five touchdowns, three on interceptions and two on blocked kicks. Alexander caught 21 touchdown passes for the Wolverines and returned four punts for touchdowns.

Any help is welcome, but the big-play personality for the Browns is still Eric Metcalf. He had the team's longest run, 55 yards; the longest kickoff return, 91 yards for a touchdown; the longest punt return, 47 yards; and one of the longest pass receptions, a 49-yard touchdown. Metcalf carried the ball just 129 times, but still had 611 yards (4.7 average). He caught 63 passes for 539 yards and returned 36 punts for a 12.9-yard average (tops in the AFC) and two touchdowns and 15 kickoffs for a 21.2-yard average. The pounder in the running attack is Tommy Vardell, who led the team with 644 yards and three rushing touchdowns. As the offensive line ripens, Vardell's usefulness should increase. He had never fumbled in a college or pro game until he did it twice against Atlanta in late November. Belichick prizes that reliability. Leroy Hoard averaged 4.1 yards for his 56 carries.

Other than center Steve Everitt, the offensive line is not full of star potential, but as a unit it is improving. It allowed 35 sacks in the first nine games, only 10 the rest of the season. Ex-Falcon Houston Hoover is the left guard with Bob Dahl on the right side. Modell spent serious money to re-sign left tackle Tony Jones, the offensive captain. Ex-Dolphin Gene Williams is the right tackle. Everitt could be in the Pro Bowl one of these years. He started all 16 games as a rookie.

Expect Testaverde to look for Mark Carrier

first in the passing schemes. They were battery mates at Tampa Bay. Carrier caught 43 passes for a 17.3-yard average. Michael Jackson is more explosive. He scored eight touchdowns on his 41 catches and averaged 18.4 yards. Alexander is a wild card in this equation. Keenan McCardell caught just 13 passes a year ago but scored on four of them. Reeves is valued mostly for his blocking.

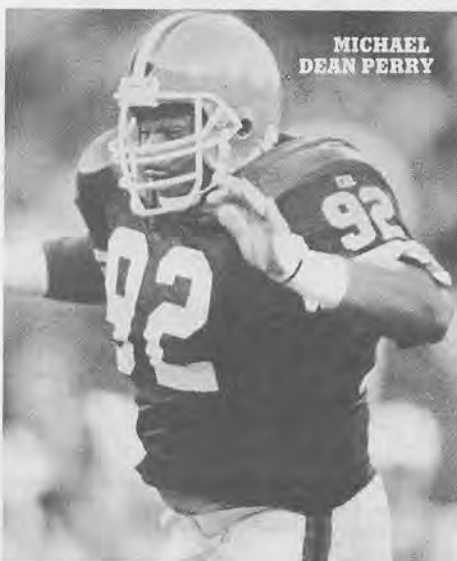
The Browns suffered an unexpected blow when they lost their leading tackler and defensive captain, linebacker Mike Johnson, to Detroit. Clay Matthews is 38 and already has played longer than any other NFL linebacker. This is his 17th season. He's the oldest defensive player in the league. The other incumbent starter, ex-Giant Pepper Johnson, had a disappointing year. Second-year man Mike Caldwell and veteran Carl Banks have to come through. No linebackers were drafted.

The hallmark in the defensive line is pass rush. The ends, Anthony Pleasant and Rob Burnett, combined for 20 sacks. Tackles Michael Dean Perry and James Jones combined

for 11½. Perry was named to his fourth Pro Bowl. The draft brings Romeo Bandison of Oregon, who joins Bill Johnson to provide depth.

Langham will step right into the secondary opposite Najee Mustafaa, who started 14 games despite a series of nagging injuries. Donald Frank comes from San Diego. Strong safety Stevon Moore led the team with 96 solo tackles. Free safety Eric Turner may have momentum, since he intercepted passes in three straight games in late December.

New England signed punter Brian Hansen as a free agent. Place-kicker Matt Stover hit 16 of 22 field goals, including his last three in a tight loss to Pittsburgh.



MICHAEL DEAN PERRY



CARL BANKS



STEVE EVERITT

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
73	Annie, Herman	T	6-4	305	24	Grambling
23	Baldwin, Randy	RB	5-10	216	27	Mississippi
	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	32	Michigan State
25	Briggs, Greg	S	6-3	210	26	Texas Southern
77	Brown, Orlando	OL	6-7	325	24	S.C. State
52	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	29	San Diego State
90	Burnett, Rob	DE	6-4	280	27	Syracuse
56	Caldwell, Mike	LB	6-2	235	23	Middle Tenn. St.
83	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	29	Nicholls State
72	Dahl, Bob	G	6-5	300	26	Notre Dame
51	Dixon, Gerald	LB	6-3	250	25	South Carolina
61	Everitt, Steve	C	6-5	290	24	Michigan
78	Foolman, Dan	DE	6-5	290	25	Florida State
37	Frank, Donald	CB	6-0	192	29	Winston-Salem
8	Goebel, Brad	QB	6-3	198	27	Baylor
28	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	30	Middle Tenn. St.
31	Hairston, Stacey	CB	5-9	180	27	Ohio Northern
55	Hill, Travis	LB	6-2	240	25	Nebraska
39	Hilliard, Randy	CB	5-11	160	27	Northwestern La.
33	Hoard, Leroy	RB	5-11	225	26	Michigan
64	Hoover, Houston	G	6-2	300	29	Jackson State
81	Jackson, Michael	WR	6-4	195	25	Southern Miss.
41	Jacobs, Tim	CB	5-10	185	24	Delaware
94	Johnson, Bill	OL	6-4	290	26	Michigan State
53	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	30	Ohio State
47	Jones, David	TE	6-3	255	26	Delaware State
96	Jones, James	DT	6-2	290	25	Northern Iowa
22	Jones, Selwyn	CB	6-0	185	24	Colorado State
66	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	295	28	Western Carolina
68	Kinchen, Brian	TE	6-2	240	29	LSU
68	King, Ed	OL	6-4	300	25	Auburn
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6-0	225	32	Clemson
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	245	38	USC
67	McCardell, Keenan	WR	6-1	175	24	UNLV
80	McLemore, Tom	TE	6-5	250	24	Southern
21	Metcalf, Eric	RB	5-10	190	26	Texas
65	Milstead, Rod	G	6-2	290	25	Delaware State
27	Moore, Stevon	S	5-11	210	27	Mississippi
48	Mustafaa, Najee	CB	6-1	190	30	Georgia Tech
92	Perry, Michael Dean	DT	6-1	285	29	Clemson
17	Philcox, Todd	QB	6-4	225	28	Syracuse
98	Pleasant, Anthony	DE	6-5	260	26	Tennessee State
49	Reeves, Walter	TE	6-4	270	29	Auburn
42	Riddick, Louis	S	5-2	215	25	Pittsburgh
86	Rowe, Patrick	WR	6-1	195	25	San Diego St.
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	OL	6-6	297	25	San Diego St.
84	Smith, Rico	WR	6-0	185	25	Colorado
43	Speer, Del	S	6-0	200	24	Florida
50	Slams, Frank	LB	6-2	230	29	Notre Dame
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	26	Louisiana Tech
54	Sutter, Ed	LB	6-3	235	25	Northwestern
12	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	31	Miami
85	Tillman, Lawyer	WR	6-5	230	28	Auburn
7	Tupa, Tom	P/DB	6-4	230	28	Ohio State
29	Turner, Eric	S	6-1	207	26	UCLA
44	Vardell, Tommy	FB	6-2	230	25	Stanford
62	Williams, Gene	OL	6-2	305	26	Iowa State
63	Williams, Wally	C	6-2	300	23	Florida A&M
60	Withycombe, Mike	OL	6-5	300	30	Fresno State
26	Wolfe, Ron	RB	6-0	220	32	West Virginia

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Langham, Antonio	CB	5-11	180	Alabama
1	Alexander, Derrick	WR	6-0	196	Michigan
3	Bandison, Romeo	DT	6-5	280	Oregon
5	Booth, Isaac	DB	6-3	185	California
6	Strait, Robert	RB	6-0	256	Baylor
7	Hewitt, Andre	OT	6-6	270	Clemson

DAVID KLINGLER



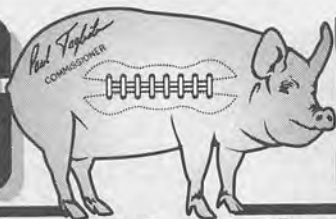
CINCINNATI BENGALS

There are major changes in Cincinnati and they should make coach David Shula's life more pleasant. Free agents have been signed. Bruce Coslet, the ex-Jets head coach, returns to town as the offensive coordinator. Larry Peccatiello takes over as defensive coordinator. Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson arrives to worry the opposition's offensive coordinators.

The hiring of Coslet and Peccatiello, respected veteran coaches, should tighten the atmosphere on the team, which should help Shula, the youngest head coach in the NFL. The Bengals are going to find out if David Klingler is truly their quarterback of the future after he works with Coslet. The defensive design will change from a 3-4 with the emphasis on high-risk blitzing to a 4-3 in the image of the Washington Redskins' great teams, of which Peccatiello was an important part.

Wilkinson, the first pick in the '94 college draft, needs some polishing since he still had two years of college eligibility remaining when he decided to turn pro. Yet in his unpolished state, he has the stuff to dominate a game. A number of NFL scouts feel that Wilkinson, even at 315 pounds, has the quickness and fast feet to be used at end in pass-rushing situations. Peccatiello is likely to station him at tackle in the new four-man front and allow him to control the interior. Since the Bengals used last year's top draft pick to select defensive end John Copeland, who had a strong rookie year, the potential for swift improvement in blunting the run as well as both-ering the passers is now present.

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Cinci finished 27th in passing and 24th in running in the league, so the room for improvement is vast. The feature back was Harold Green, who averaged just 2.7 yards for his 251 carries, not the formula for sustained drives. It would also help if Green's rift with Shula, which broke into the newspapers, is at least mended if not healed. There wasn't much else since Klingler was the next-most productive ground gainer when he was running for his life. Free agent Steve Broussard of

the Falcons should provide both a change of pace and someone to catch the ball on third down. The only back drafted was 231-pound Jeff Cothran of Ohio State, whose principal duties were blocking and catching passes. Derrick Fenner wants more work.

When Cincinnati used to appear in the Super Bowl, one of the team's hallmarks was strong offensive-line play. The same coach, Jim McNally, still tutors the Bengals' linemen, but he hasn't had much to work with lately. Offensive linemen were an afterthought in Cincinnati's drafting for several years. That is changing. Of the first three free agents signed by the Bengals, two were guards, Darriek Brilz of Seattle and Eric Moore of the Giants. Brilz and Moore should alter the look of the line. Ken Moyer is the center with another veteran, Joe Walter, at right tackle. Bruce Kozerski should fit in there somewhere. Second-year men Scott Brumfield and Tom Scott started as rookies. Scott handled the tough left-tackle job and improved later in the season, but Kevin Sargent, who underwent two surgeries to fix his broken right arm, could be the left tack-

le if he's healed. The line simply has to do a better job of protecting the quarterback. Only Jeff George, then of Indianapolis, was sacked more than the 40 times Klingler was dumped. Klingler played under tight control in his first full season as the starting quarterback. He was intercepted just nine times but threw for only six touchdowns. His average gain per pass of 5.64 yards was the lowest in the AFC. There is no assurance Klingler will be unshackled this season.

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Pelfrey, 85 points on 13 extra points and 24 field goals...12th
RUSHING—Green, 589 yards on 215 carries, 2.7 average...17th
PASSING—Klingler, 190 of 343 attempts for 1,935 yards and 6 TDs...15th
RECEIVING—Query, 56 receptions for 654 yards, 11.7 avg., 4 TDs...17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brim, 3 for 74 yards, 24.7 avg., 1 TD...17th
PUNTING—Johnson, 90 punts, 43.9 avg., longest 60 yards...5th
PUNT RETURNS—Robinson, 43 for 305 yards, 7.1 average...12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Robinson, 30 for 567 yards, 18.9 average...8th
SACKS—Stubbs, 5.0 sacks...118th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 At Tampa Bay (N)
 13 INDIANAPOLIS (N)
 20 At Philadelphia (N)
 26 DETROIT (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	CLEVELAND	17-28
	11	At San Diego	—
	18	NEW ENGLAND	2-7
	25	At Houston	12-28
October	2	MIAMI (N)	—
	9	OPEN DATE	—
	16	At Pittsburgh	7-34
	23	At Cleveland	14-27
	30	DALLAS	—
November	6	At Seattle	10-19
	13	HOUSTON	3-38
	20	INDIANAPOLIS	6-9
	27	At Denver	—
December	4	PITTSBURGH	16-24
	11	At N.Y. Giants	—
	18	At Arizona	—
	24	PHILADELPHIA	—

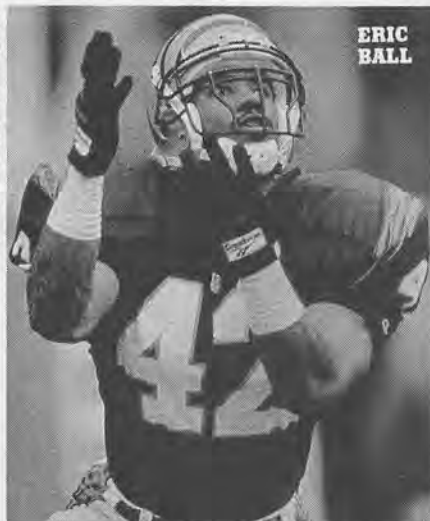


BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
42	Ball, Eric	RB	6-2	220	28	UCLA
21	Benjamin, Ryan	RB	5-7	183	24	Pacific
60	Bradley, Chuck	T	6-5	296	24	Kentucky
57	Brantley, John	LB	6-3	240	29	Georgia
65	Brilz, Darriek	G	6-3	287	30	Oregon State
43	Brim, Mike	CB	6-0	192	29	Virginia Union
33	Broussard, Steve	RB	5-7	201	27	Washington St.
72	Brumfield, Scott	T	6-8	320	24	BYU
92	Copeland, John	DT	6-3	286	24	Alabama
18	Drage, Eric	WR	6-1	180	23	BYU
41	Duckett, Forey	CB	6-3	195	24	Nevada
20	English, Willie	RB	5-11	225	23	Central Florida
44	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6-3	228	27	North Carolina
50	Francis, James	LB	6-5	252	26	Baylor
97	Frier, Mike	DE	6-5	299	25	Appalachian St.
47	Frisch, David	TE	6-7	260	24	Colorado State
58	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	245	30	Cincinnati
24	Grant, Alan	CB	5-10	187	28	Stanford
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	26	South Carolina
27	Gunn, Lance	S	6-3	222	24	Texas
98	Hinkle, George	DT	6-5	288	29	Arizona
12	Hollas, Don	QB	6-3	215	27	Rice
55	Johnson, Lance	LB	6-1	265	24	Notre Dame
11	Johnson, Lee	K	6-2	200	33	BYU
66	Jones, Dan	T	6-7	204	24	Maine
25	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	185	30	SMU
7	Klingler, David	QB	6-2	205	25	Houston
64	Kozerski, Bruce	G	6-4	287	32	Holy Cross
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	274	34	Wisc.-Madison
75	Linn, Jack	OL	6-5	285	27	West Virginia
86	McDonald, Ricardo	LB	6-2	235	25	Pittsburgh
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	183	30	Tennessee
82	McGee, Tony	TE	6-3	246	23	Michigan
59	McGill, Karmeeleah	LB	6-3	224	23	Notre Dame
36	Miles, Ostell	RB	6-0	236	23	Houston
62	Moore, Eric	G	6-5	290	29	Indiana
73	Moyer, Ken	T	6-7	297	28	Toledo
95	Nix, Roosevelt	DE	6-6	292	27	Central St.
29	Oliver, Louis	S	6-2	224	29	Florida
9	Pelfrey, Doug	PK	5-11	185	24	Kentucky
80	Pickens, Carl	WR	6-2	206	24	Tennessee
89	Query, Jeff	WR	6-0	165	27	Millikin
88	Rembert, Reggie	WR	6-5	200	28	West Virginia
81	Robinson, Patrick	WR	5-8	176	25	Tennessee State
87	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	250	29	Georgia
77	Sargent, Kevin	T	6-8	284	25	E. Washington
10	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	33	UCLA
74	Scott, Tom	T	6-6	330	24	East Carolina
90	Shaw, Eric	LB	6-3	248	23	Louisiana Tech
22	Simmons, Marcello	CB	6-1	180	23	SMU
84	Stegall, Milt	WR	6-0	184	24	Miami (OH)
30	Stowers, Dan	S	6-2	200	24	New Mexico St.
96	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	264	29	Miami
49	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-4	233	25	Oregon
48	Thompson, Craig	TE	6-2	244	25	N. Carolina A&T
51	Tovar, Steve	LB	6-3	244	24	Ohio State
40	Truitt, Greg	LS	6-0	235	29	Penn State
83	Turner, Elbert	WR	5-11	165	26	Illinois
34	Vinson, Ferrandus	S	5-10	197	26	N.C. State
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-7	292	31	Texas Tech
37	Wheeler, Leonard	CB	5-11	189	25	Troy State
4	Wilhelm, Erik	OB	6-3	217	29	Oregon State
94	Williams, Alfred	LB	6-6	240	26	Colorado
31	Williams, Darryl	S	6-0	191	24	Miami
67	Woodside, Ray	G	6-4	280	22	Cincinnati

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Wilkinson, Dan	DT	6-3	315	Ohio State
2	Scott, Darnay	WR	6-1	186	San Diego St.
3	Cothran, Jeff	RB	6-2	231	Ohio State
3	Shine, Steve	LB	6-6	232	Northwestern
4	Sawyer, Corey	DB	5-11	165	Florida State
5	Polard, Trent	OT	6-3	304	Eastern Washington
6	Von Oelhoffen, Kim	DT	6-4	298	Boise State
6	Reynolds, Jerry	OT	6-6	315	UNLV
7	Stallins, Ramon	DE	6-7	280	San Diego St.



ERIC BALL

Considering all their problems, it's understandable why the Bengals didn't attempt to stretch many defenses. Wideout Jeff Query, their leading receiver, averaged 11.7 yards on his 56 catches. That is a tight end's number. The rookie tight end, Tony McGee, averaged 11.9 yards on his 44 catches. Carl Perkins, the closest thing Cincinnati has to a game-breaker, averaged 13.1 yards on 43, six of them for touchdowns. The Bengals have ambitions. They drafted Darnay Scott, the San Diego State burner, in the second round.

Wilkinson and Copeland alone should create an improvement in a pass rush that produced a mere 22 sacks. Those two may have to go it alone, at least figuratively. Tim Krumrie, a noble nose tackle for 11 seasons, is now 34 and still undersized. Mike Frier started at right end last year and George Hinkle backed him up. The Bengals put a third-round draft choice they got for Boomer Esiason to good use last year on Steve Tovar, who should be the middle linebacker in Peccatiello's 4-3. Left outside linebacker James Francis may restart his engine under the new coach. Alfred Williams predicted 19 sacks for himself and end-



JOHN COPELAND



DARRICK BRIZL

ed up with four. Steve Shine of Northwestern is the primary rookie linebacker.

The top free agent is Louis Oliver, who had some big years for the Dolphins. He'll switch from free safety to strong, since free safety Darryl Williams was Cincinnati's leading tackler. He also returned an interception 97 yards for a touchdown. Mike Brim and Rod Jones are the incumbent cornerbacks. Florida State rookie Corey Sawyer, who plays bigger than his size, will challenge.

Doug Pelfrey kicked 24 of 31 field goals as a rookie and Lee Johnson averaged 43.9 yards with 24 punts landing inside the 20. The return game needs improvement.

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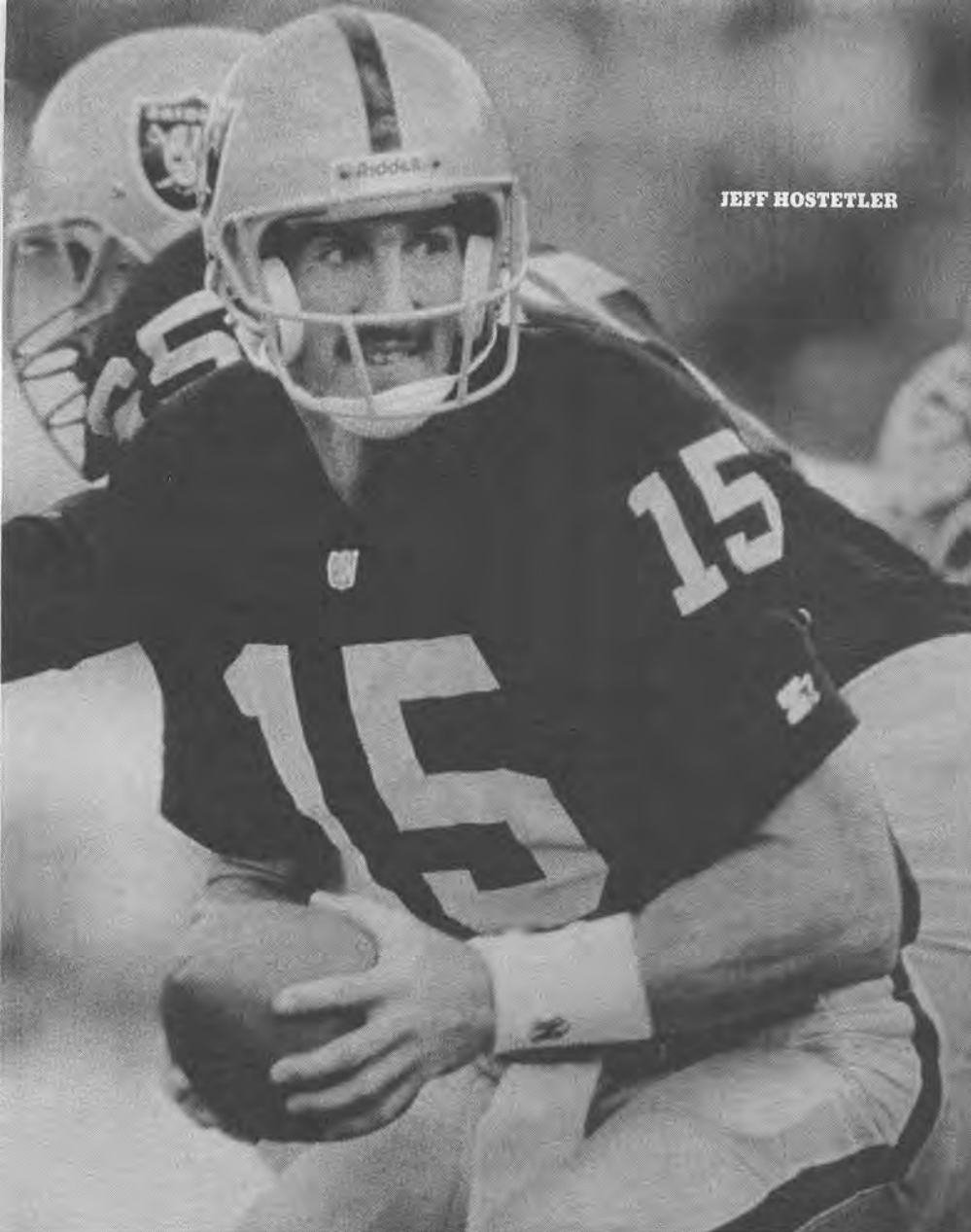
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Gary Brown Leads The Charge!

The Cowboys Are Next!



JEFF HOSTETLER

three yards per carry, Davis is taking a chance with another flop, Harvey Williams, who broke Kansas City hearts. The draft brings Calvin Jones of Nebraska, who bears the look of another Cornhusker straight-ahead runner who doesn't make a dent in the pros.

That puts the offensive onus on Hostetler's arm, which produced 3,242 yards, 14 touchdowns, and the highest average gain per pass (7.74 yards) among AFC quarterbacks who threw at least 250 passes. After Brown, the second-most-productive receiver was tight end Ethan Horton, who signed with Washington. Alexander Wright, another flyer, included four touchdowns among his 27 catches. Rocket Ismail averaged a modest 13.6 yards on his 26 catches and his four carries from scrimmage netted minus yardage. Hostetler also had the longest run from scrimmage last year, 19 yards, although Napoleon McCallum broke a 26-yarder in his three-touchdown playoff game against Denver. It is Raider philosophy to emphasize a strength, and that is what is happening this season. The next offensive development should be the accelerated education of Ismail, who cost too much just to return kicks. The Rocket must get the ball more often if L.A. is to improve offensively. Hostetler already has another frightening collaborator in James Jett, the world class sprinter who led the NFL in per-catch average (23.4 yards) on his 33 receptions as a rookie.

The offensive line is overweighted on the left side. Tackle Gerald Perry and guard Steve

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Jaeger, 132 points on 27 extra points and 35 field goals. . . 1st
 RUSHING—Robinson, 591 yards on 156 carries, 3.8 avg., 1 TD. . . 16th
 PASSING—Hostetler, 236 of 419 attempts for 3,242 yards and 14 TDs. . . 6th
 RECEIVING—Brown, 80 receptions for 1,180 yards, 14.8 avg., 7 TDs. . . 15th
 INTERCEPTIONS—McDaniel, 5 for 87 yards, 17.4 avg., 1 TD. . . 15th
 PUNTING—Gossett, 71 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 61 yards. . . 11th
 PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 40 for 465 yards, 11.6 avg., 1 TD. . . 3rd
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 25 for 605 yards, 24.2 average. . . 1st
 SACKS—Smith, 12.5 sacks. . . 15th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 31 Denver at Barcelona, Spain
 August 7 At Dallas (N)
 13 At Pittsburgh (N)
 20 At L.A. Rams (N)
 27 At Houston

1994 SCHEDULE		1993 SCORES	
September	5 At San Francisco (N)	—	—
	11 SEATTLE	27-23	—
	18 At Denver	23-20	—
	25 SAN DIEGO	23-30	—
October	2 OPEN DATE	—	—
	9 At New England	—	—
	16 At Miami	—	—
	23 ATLANTA	—	—
November	30 HOUSTON	—	—
	6 At Kansas City (N)	9-24	—
	13 At L.A. Rams	—	—
	20 NEW ORLEANS	—	—
December	27 PITTSBURGH	—	—
	5 At San Diego (N)	12-7	—
	11 DENVER	33-30	—
	18 At Seattle (N)	17-13	—
	24 KANSAS CITY	20-31	—

AFCwest

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

The Raiders have become a team of temporary measures. Even their domicile may be temporary. The Los Angeles earthquake damaged the Coliseum so severely that there will be 15,000 fewer seats available in the old place this season. The Raiders could end up being a gypsy football team. Baltimore, Oakland, Sacramento, and Orlando were among the places the franchise might have headed before opening day.

For years on the field, the Raiders settled for temporary quarterbacks. The current temp should stay a while. Once Jeff Hostetler balked at the strategists' attempt to make him over in the Raider image, the offense began moving and didn't stop until the playoff semifinals. Al Davis may not have his best Raider team, but thanks to Hoss he has his old vertical passing game back. The Raiders aren't kidding themselves. They know they don't

have the kind of power running back who can provide a multi-dimensional attack. That's why Davis went to the financial wall to keep wide receiver Tim Brown after he signed a rich offer sheet with the Denver Broncos. Brown cost so much that it inhibited the Raider plans to acquire the runner they need.

The Raiders averaged 31 points per game in winning four of their last six regular-season games plus the playoff explosion against Denver. Yet in the two losses, they managed just 10 points against the woeful Cincinnati Bengals and were shut out, 28-0, in Green Bay. They could have used a viable running game on both days. Only Indianapolis and Tampa Bay were weaker on the ground. The best thing they had going for them on the ground was surprise rookie Greg Robinson, who led the team with 591 yards. His longest run was an un-Raiderlike 16 yards. Nick Bell, once the heavyweight hope, averaged under

Wisniewski had all-pro seasons. With right guard Max Montoya turned 38, Davis signed huge Kevin Gogan from Dallas to play right guard. Bruce Wilkerson is the right tackle and Don Mosebar the center.

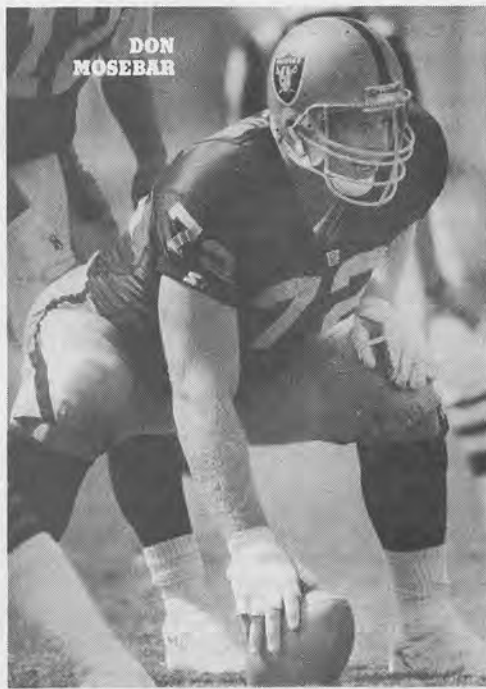
With Howie Long retired, the expectation is that sack specialist Anthony Smith, who nailed passers 12½ times, will become the full-time

left end. The major need is to keep the mountainous tackle, Chester McGlockton, healthy. Nolan Harrison is a solid tackle partner for McGlockton and Greg Townsend is the veteran right end. Rookie tackle Austin Robbins of North Carolina is a run-plugger.

It was a defensive draft, with linebackers the first two picks. Rob Frederickson of Michigan State, who has savvy and speed, was No. 1. Big James Folston of Northeast Louisiana, who can play like a down lineman, was No. 2. Folston and Smith could be a wicked pass-rush combination. Winston Moss and Aaron Wallace are incumbents from a linebacking corps that is likely to be shaken up. Albert Lewis, the long-time Kansas City Chief, was signed as a free agent. He combines with Lionel Washington to give the Raiders two 33-year-old cornerbacks (34 in October) on the right side. Pro Bowler Terry McDaniel is the left corner. The expectation is that Patrick Bates will move into the strong-safety spot alongside free safety Eddie Anderson.

The Raiders attempted 44 field goals and Jeff Jaeger made 35 of them, tying an NFL record. His 132 points won the scoring championship. Jeff Gossett averaged 41.8 yards and dropped 19 punts inside the 20. Ismail on kickoff returns and Brown on punt returns are explosive runners.

Of the changes made by the Raiders, two of the most significant may be in the coaching staff. John Fox was hired away from San Diego to replace Gunther Cunningham as defensive coordinator. That change came a month after the Raider defense was chewed up by Buffalo in the second half of a playoff game the Raiders could have won. Another Charger coach, Jack Reilly, was hired for the offensive staff. He has collegiate experience as an offensive coordinator.



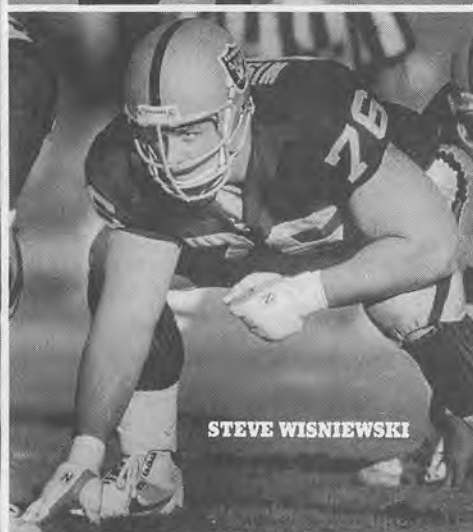
DON MOSEBAR



TIM BROWN



ANTHONY SMITH



STEVE WISNIEWSKI

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	210	31	Fort Valley St.
29	Bates, Patrick	S	6-3	220	24	Texas A&M
38	Bell, Nick	RB	6-2	250	26	Iowa
54	Biekert, Greg	LB	6-2	235	25	Colorado
97	Broughton, Willie	DT	6-5	285	30	Miami
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	28	Notre Dame
56	Bruce, Aundray	DE	6-5	260	28	Auburn
92	Collins, Ferric	DT	6-6	295	25	California
31	Dixon, Rickey	S	5-11	185	28	Oklahoma
46	Dorn, Torin	CB	6-0	190	26	North Carolina
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	215	39	USC
45	Fulcher, David	LB	6-3	245	30	Arizona State
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-1	175	34	Tennessee
87	Glover, Andrew	TE	6-6	245	27	Grambling
66	Gogan, Kevin	G	6-7	325	30	Washington
7	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	195	37	Eastern Illinois
74	Harrison, Nolan	DT	6-5	285	25	Indiana
80	Hobbs, Daryl	WR	6-2	180	26	Pacific
12	Hobert, Billy Joe	QB	6-3	230	23	Washington
20	Hoskins, Derrick	S	6-2	205	24	Southern Miss
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6-3	220	33	West Virginia
86	Ismail, Raghib	WR	5-10	180	25	Notre Dame
18	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	190	30	Washington
82	Jett, James	WR	5-10	165	24	West Virginia
52	Jones, Mike	LB	6-1	230	25	Missouri
85	Jordan, Charles	WR	5-10	175	25	Long Beach City
23	Jordan, Randy	RB	5-10	205	24	North Carolina
25	Land, Dan	CB	6-0	195	29	Albany State
79	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	290	35	Florida State
24	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	195	34	Grambling
41	McCallum, Napoleon	RB	6-2	225	31	Navy
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	180	29	Tennessee
91	McGlockton, Chester	DT	6-4	315	25	Clemson
21	Montgomery, Tyrone	RB	6-0	190	24	Mississippi
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	295	38	UCLA
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6-6	300	33	USC
99	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	240	29	Miami
64	Peat, Todd	G	6-2	305	30	Northern Illinois
71	Perry, Gerald	T	6-6	300	30	Southern
96	Powers, Warren	DT	6-7	285	29	Maryland
28	Robinson, Greg	RB	5-10	200	25	NE Louisiana
78	Skrepnek, Greg	G	6-8	305	24	Michigan
94	Smith, Anthony	DE	6-3	260	27	Arizona
39	Smith, Kevin	TE	6-4	255	25	UCLA
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	240	30	Penn State
77	Stephens, Rich	T	6-7	300	29	Tulsa
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	270	33	TCU
37	Trapp, James	CB	6-0	180	25	Clemson
67	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	290	32	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, Aaron	LB	6-3	240	27	Texas A&M
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	34	Tulane
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	295	30	Tennessee
	Williams, Harvey	RB	6-2	225	27	LSU
	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	34	Nebraska
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6-4	285	27	Penn State
89	Wright, Alexander	WR	6-0	190	27	Auburn
66	Wright, Steve	T	6-6	290	35	Northern Iowa

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Frederickson, Rob	LB	6-3	242	Michigan State
2	Folston, James	LB	6-2	235	NE Louisiana
3	Jones, Calvin	RB	5-11	210	Nebraska
4	Robbins, Austin	DT	6-6	287	North Carolina
5	Patterson, Roosevelt	OT	6-4	220	Alabama
7	Holmberg, Rob	LB	6-3	214	Penn State

JOHN ELWAY

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Elam, 119 points on 41 extra points and 26 field goals . . . 4th
 RUSHING—Bernstine, 816 yards on 223 carries, 3.7 avg., 4 TDs . . . 6th
 PASSING—Elway, 348 of 551 attempts for 4,030 yards and 25 TDs . . . 1st
 RECEIVING—Sharpe, 81 receptions for 995 yards, 12.3 avg., 9 TDs . . . 3rd
 INTERCEPTIONS—Braxton, 3 for 37 yards, 12.3 average . . . 17th
 -Smith, 3 for 57 yards, 19.0 average . . . 17th
 PUNTING—Rouen, 67 punts, 45.0 avg., longest 62 yards . . . 2nd
 PUNT RETURNS—Milburn, 40 for 425 yards, 10.6 average . . . 5th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Russell, 18 for 374 yards, 20.8 average . . . unranked
 SACKS—Fletcher, 13.5 sacks . . . 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	31	L.A. Raiders at Barcelona, Spain
August	6	ATLANTA (N)
	12	At San Francisco (N)
	21	At Dallas (N)
	25	ARIZONA (N)

1994 SCHEDULE		1993 SCORES
September	4	SAN DIEGO (N) . . . 34-17
	11	At N.Y. Jets . . . 26-20
	18	L.A. RAIDERS . . . 20-23
	26	At Buffalo (N) . . . —
October	2	OPEN DATE . . . —
	9	At Seattle . . . 17-9
	17	KANSAS CITY (N) . . . 27-21
	23	At San Diego . . . 10-13
	30	CLEVELAND . . . 29-14
November	6	At L.A. Rams . . . —
	13	SEATTLE . . . 28-17
	20	ATLANTA . . . —
	27	CINCINNATI . . . —
December	4	At Kansas City . . . 7-15
	11	At L.A. Raiders . . . 30-33
	17	At San Francisco . . . —
	24	NEW ORLEANS . . . —

DENVER BRONCOS

In Denver, they consider owner Jerry Jones of the Cowboys a Pat Bowlen wannabe. When it comes to an owner wheeling and dealing in the player market, Bowlen bows to no tycoon. The Broncos were the most active team in free agency last season, and this spring there was no letup in the makeover. Bowlen, with aide Bob Ferguson advising him, was a two-platoon deal-maker, changing the look of his team on defense as well as offense. The tinkering paid off on both sides of the ball in 1993. The offense improved by 111 points, leading the AFC with 373 points. The defense allowed 45 fewer points. Where there wasn't a big payoff was in the won-lost record: 8-8 in 1992, 9-7 in '93. The Broncos made the playoffs but they were quickly blown right out.

So Bowlen got out his check book once more. Ferguson and coach Wade Phillips convinced him Denver needed a game-breaking wide receiver, so a fat offer sheet (which included a no-trade clause) was dispatched to the Raiders' Tim Brown. The Broncos have a thing about Brown, who kills them. He signed, but the Raiders matched the offer. The big money and the no-trade clause painted L.A. into a corner, however, for with so

much money committed to Brown, Raiders owner Al Davis couldn't afford a big-time running back. And Bowlen, having failed to keep Brown, then went down his list and made a big offer to Anthony Miller, San Diego's game-breaker. Miller signed it and the Chargers declined to match. Now John Elway can throw to a Pro Bowl wide receiver, Miller, as well as to a Pro Bowl tight end, Shannon Sharpe. For good measure, the Broncos traded with Atlanta to acquire another speedy wide receiver, Mike Pritchard. Elway has never smiled a toothier grin.

Since Brown was still on Bowlen's mind, the Broncos made some drastic changes in their secondary to make it more difficult for the Raider star to tear it apart as he has in the past. They traded with Philadelphia for cornerback Ben Smith and signed former Detroit cornerback Ray Crockett as a free agent. Both are physical players. "We don't expect to find anyone who can run with Brown and James Jett, so we're going to try something else. These are in-your-face corners. We're going to try to knock the hell out of them at the line of scrimmage."

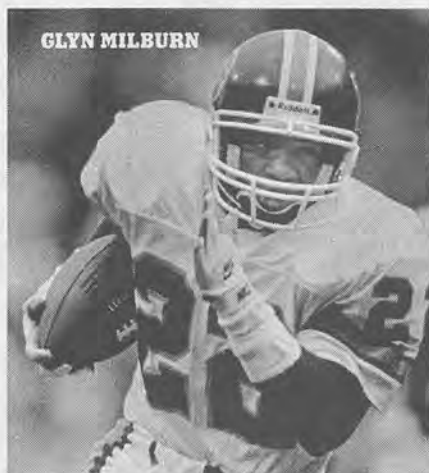
Even without the added help at wide receiver, Elway led the AFC in passing last year. He

threw 25 touchdown passes, accumulated 4,030 yards, and had a miserly interception ratio of 1.8. His 63.2 completion percentage also led the conference. In Miller, Pritchard, and Sharpe, Elway has three receivers who caught a total of 239 passes and 23 touchdowns among them a year ago. Miller caught 84, Sharpe 81, and Pritchard 74. Elway may have to use two footballs this season. When he wants to go shorter, Elway has running backs Rod Bernstine, who caught 44 passes, and Glyn Milburn, who caught 38. The running game, 18th in the league in '93, should benefit from all the worry the passing attack will give opponents. Bernstine gained 816 yards and averaged 3.7 yards per carry a year ago. Robert Delpino, who can be a valuable third-down back, scored eight touchdowns and gained 445 yards. Milburn has more explosion than the other backs but he fumbles too much.

The three new offensive linemen the Broncos added last season had a great deal to do with the improvement in the attack. Gary Zimmerman is a topnotch left tackle. Brian Habib upgraded right guard, and if Don Maggs can

recover from the injured list at right tackle, it could free Russell Freeman to play left guard. Keith Kartz is the center and Doug Widell is a versatile utility man. When the Broncos use a double tight end, which is often, Cedric Tillman is the main blocker.

The Broncos finished next-to-last in the NFL in pass defense. It could have been worse since they didn't have to face Elway. The strange thing is that two Denver defenders



GLYN MILBURN

who were phased out due to age and high salaries, strong safety Dennis Smith and inside linebacker Karl Mecklenburg, made the Pro Bowl. The first three draft choices were defensive players. The secondary will be completely changed with Crockett and Ben Smith at the corners, Steve Atwater moved over from free safety to the strong side, and Rondell Jones moving up to Atwater's former free-safety position. The Broncos have their fingers crossed about Smith, who has a history of knee injuries.

Simon Fletcher, who had at least part of a sack in each of the last seven games and finished with 13½, was voted the team's most valuable defensive player. He is a fixture at right outside linebacker. On the left side Mike

Croel hasn't lived up to his rookie promise. Ex-Seahawk Dave Wyman had a productive season. Rookies Allen Aldridge of Houston or Keith Burns of Oklahoma State could battle for a starting job. The best thing that could happen to the defense is for Dan Williams, who battled injuries in his rookie year, to have a big season at right end, where Shane Dronett played well. A trade brought Ted Washington from San Francisco to play nose tackle.

Jason Elam produced as advertised as the rookie kicker, connecting on 26 of 36 field goals. First-year punter Tom Rouen averaged 45 yards. Milburn averaged 10.6 yards per punt return and Derek Russell 20.8 yards per kickoff return.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

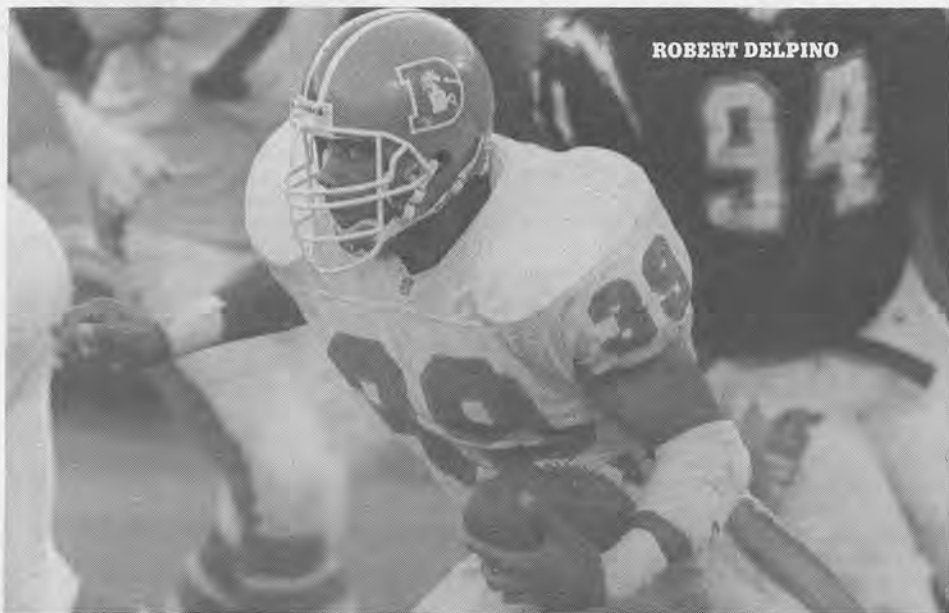
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
58	Alexander, Elijah	LB	6-2	230	24	Kansas State
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	217	28	Arkansas
33	Bernstine, Rod	RB	6-3	238	29	Texas A&M
83	Bonner, Melvin	WR	6-3	207	24	Baylor
23	Bradtford, Ronnie	CB	5-10	188	24	Colorado
34	Braxton, Tyrone	CB	5-11	185	30	No. Dakota State
	Campbell, Jeff	WR	5-8	173	26	Colorado
	Crockett, Ray	DB	5-9	181	27	Baylor
51	Croel, Mike	LB	6-3	231	25	Nebraska
39	Delpino, Robert	RB	6-0	205	29	Missouri
29	Dimmy, Charles	CB	6-0	175	28	UNLV
54	Donahue, Mitch	LB	6-2	254	26	Wyoming
99	Dronett, Shane	DE	6-6	275	23	Texas
97	Drozdz, Darren	DT	6-3	280	25	Maryland
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	192	24	Hawaii
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	34	Stanford
88	Evans, Jerry	TE	6-4	250	26	Toledo
73	Fletcher, Simon	LB	6-6	240	32	Houston
68	Freeman, Russell	T	6-7	290	25	Georgia Tech
75	Habib, Brian	T	6-7	299	30	Washington
40	Hall, Darryl	S	6-2	210	28	Washington
74	Hampel, Olaf	OL	6-6	325	27	No College
89	Johnson, Reggie	TE	6-2	256	26	Florida State
31	Jones, Rondell	S	6-2	210	23	North Carolina
72	Kartz, Keith	C	6-4	270	31	California
80	Kimbrough, Tony	WR	6-2	192	24	Jackson State
21	Lang, Le-Lo	CB	5-11	185	27	Washington
59	Lucas, Tim	LB	6-3	230	33	California
37	Lynn, Anthony	RB	6-3	230	26	Texas Tech
8	Maddox, Tommy	QB	6-4	205	23	UCLA
78	Maggs, Don	T	6-5	290	33	Tulane
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	235	34	Minnesota
61	Meeks, Bob	C	6-2	279	25	Auburn
64	Melander, Jon	OL	6-7	280	28	Minnesota
22	Milburn, Glyn	RB	5-8	177	23	Stanford
	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	189	29	Tennessee
52	Millis, Jeff	LB	6-3	250	26	Nebraska
12	Moore, Shawn	QB	6-2	213	26	Virginia
91	Oshodin, Willie	DE	6-4	265	25	Villanova
47	Pool, David	CB	5-9	182	28	Carson-Newman
17	Primus, Greg	WR	5-11	185	24	Colorado State
	Pritchard, Mike	WR	5-11	180	25	Colorado
38	Rivers, Reggie	RB	6-1	215	26	SW Texas St.
36	Robinson, Frank	CB	5-11	174	25	Boise State
94	Robinson, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	24	Idaho
81	Rose, Barry	WR	6-0	185	26	Wis-Stevens Pt.
16	Rouen, Tom	P	6-3	215	26	Colorado
85	Russell, Derek	WR	6-0	195	25	Arkansas
76	Scrifford, Kirk	T	6-6	265	27	Montana
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	230	26	Savannah State
	Smith, Ben	CB	5-11	185	27	Georgia
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	35	USC
95	Taylor, Alphonso	DT	6-3	350	25	Temple
42	Taylor, Kitrick	WR	5-11	189	30	Washington State
87	Tillman, Cedric	WR	6-2	204	24	Alcorn State
	Washington, Ted	NT	6-4	295	26	Louisville
90	Williams, Dan	DE	6-4	290	25	Toledo
79	Widell, Dave	T	6-6	292	29	Boston College
57	Wyman, Dave	LB	6-2	248	30	Stanford
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	294	33	Oregon

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Aldridge, Allen	LB	6-1	245	Houston
4	Fuller, Randy	DB	5-9	173	Tennessee State
7	Burns, Keith	LB	6-2	235	Oklahoma State
7	Bynot e, Butler	RB	5-11	190	Ohio State
7	Nalen, Tom	C	6-3	268	Boston College



SHANNON SHARPE



ROBERT DELPINO

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs didn't stand pat after making it to the Super Bowl semifinals. They couldn't afford to: Joe Montana's biological clock is ticking. They improved their secondary by signing the Giants' veteran cornerback Mark Collins. They strengthened the defensive line with the addition of free-agent tackle Tony Casillas of Dallas. And they bolstered the running game and wide-receiver corps through the draft. The Chiefs also improved Montana's chances of surviving his 16th NFL season by tearing out the artificial turf in Arrowhead Stadium and replacing it with real grass. Montana suffered a mild concussion during the AFC championship game in Buffalo when he hit his head on Rich Stadium's artificial turf.

Kansas City is putting most, if not all, of its eggs in Montana's basket again. The great quarterback is 38, but he still finished second in the AFC passing ratings last year in the Chiefs' new San Francisco style offense. At this stage of his career, Montana is judged by his presence, not by his statistics. With him in the huddle, the Chiefs feel they can reach the heights. The new offense changed almost everything about the team a year ago. The Chiefs ran the ball 445 times, the fewest since 1987. They passed it 490 times, the most since 1988. They completed 287 passes, the third-highest total in club history. The tight ends caught 55 passes, the most since 1976. The running backs caught 95 passes, the

JOE MONTANA



1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery, 106 points on 37 extra points and 23 field goals...7th

RUSHING—Allen, 764 yards on 206 carries, 3.7 avg., 12 TDs...7th

PASSING—Montana, 181 of 298 attempts for 2,144 yards and 13 TDs...2nd

RECEIVING—Davis, 52 receptions for 909 yards, 17.5 avg., 7 TD...T20th

INTERCEPTIONS—Lewis, 6 for 61 yards, 10.2 average...4th

PUNTING—Barker, 76 punts, 42.6 avg., longest 59 yards...8th

PUNT RETURNS—Carter, 27 for 247 yards, 9.1 average...6th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Hughes, 14 for 266 yards, 19.0 average...unranked

SACKS—Smith, 15.0 sacks...1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	31	HOUSTON (N)
August	6	Minnesota at Tokyo, Japan (N)
	12	At Washington (N)
	22	CHICAGO (N)
	26	At Buffalo (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	At New Orleans
	11	SAN FRANCISCO
	18	At Atlanta (N)
	25	L.A. Rams
October	2	OPEN DATE
	9	At San Diego	17-14
	17	At Denver (N)	21-27
	23	SEATTLE	34-24
	30	At Buffalo	23-7
November	6	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	24-9
	13	SAN DIEGO	28-24
	20	CLEVELAND
	27	At Seattle	31-16
December	4	DENVER	15-7
	12	At Miami (N)	10-30
	18	Houston	0-30
	24	At L.A. Raiders	31-20

most in the Marty Schottenheimer era. Offensive coordinator Paul Hackett, who installed the attack, predicts better things this season. "We know each other better and we understand what to expect," said Hackett. "That's a function of time."

It won't hurt that the right side of the offensive line now has a year's experience. Right guard Will Shields started as a rookie and right tackle Ricky Siglar, who kicked around with three NFL teams, got his first starting assignment. "Shields was a revelation," said Schottenheimer. "He came to us as a third-round draft choice and played like a first-rounder." The Chiefs moved quickly to re-sign Montana's principal bodyguard, left tackle John Alt. Dave Szott is the left guard and Tim Grunhard the center. They allowed Montana to be sacked just 12 times.

Marcus Allen had a wonderful introductory year in Kansas City, leading the team in rushing with 764 yards, catching 34 passes, scoring 15 touchdowns, and going to the Pro Bowl. But Allen is 34 and Schottenheimer is realistic. He drafted Greg Hill of Texas A&M on the first round. Hill played only seven games as a senior but averaged 5.7 yards per carry. Even if he shares time with Allen, he'll help. In the second round the Chiefs selected Miami's 247-pound fullback, Donnell Bennett, a big-time blocker and a superb receiver. He'll challenge starter Kimble Anders.

Willie Davis had the highest per-catch average in the NFL, 17.5 yards, for receivers who caught 50 passes or more. He had seven touchdowns among his 52 receptions. J.J. Birden caught 51 with four touchdowns. The draft brings Lake Dawson, a big-play posses-

sion receiver from Notre Dame, and Tulsa's Chris Penn, who caught 105 passes for 1,578 yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior. He has everything except speed. Keith Cash pushed Jonathon Hayes aside at tight end with his spectacular performances in the playoffs.

The Chiefs lost three defensive starters—cornerback Albert Lewis, free safety Kevin Ross, and linebacker Lonnie Marts—to free agency. "The fans had better get used to free agency," said club president Carl Peterson. "The players will probably be with one team only about four seasons from now on." The erratic Dale Carter (one great play, one poor play) will replace Lewis opposite Collins and David Whitmore is a possibility as Ross's successor. Bracey Walker, a rookie from North Carolina, could make a bid for either safety job. Derrick Thomas moves back to linebacker after an unsuccessful experiment with him at end. He was overrun so often in the AFC championship game that he sat out most of the second half. Tracy Rogers and Tracy Simien are the other starting linebackers.

Neil Smith, the left end, led the NFL with 15 sacks. Thomas had eight, but he could inflate that figure now that he's back as a blitzing linebacker. Darren Mickell replaces Thomas at right end. Casillas replaces Dan Saleaumua at right tackle alongside run-stopper Joe Phillips. Schottenheimer thinks he got a steal when he was able to draft Arizona's Outland Trophy winner Rob Waldrop on the fifth round.

mua at right tackle alongside run-stopper Joe Phillips. Schottenheimer thinks he got a steal when he was able to draft Arizona's Outland Trophy winner Rob Waldrop on the fifth round.



KEITH CASH

The new line should control opposing power running games more effectively.

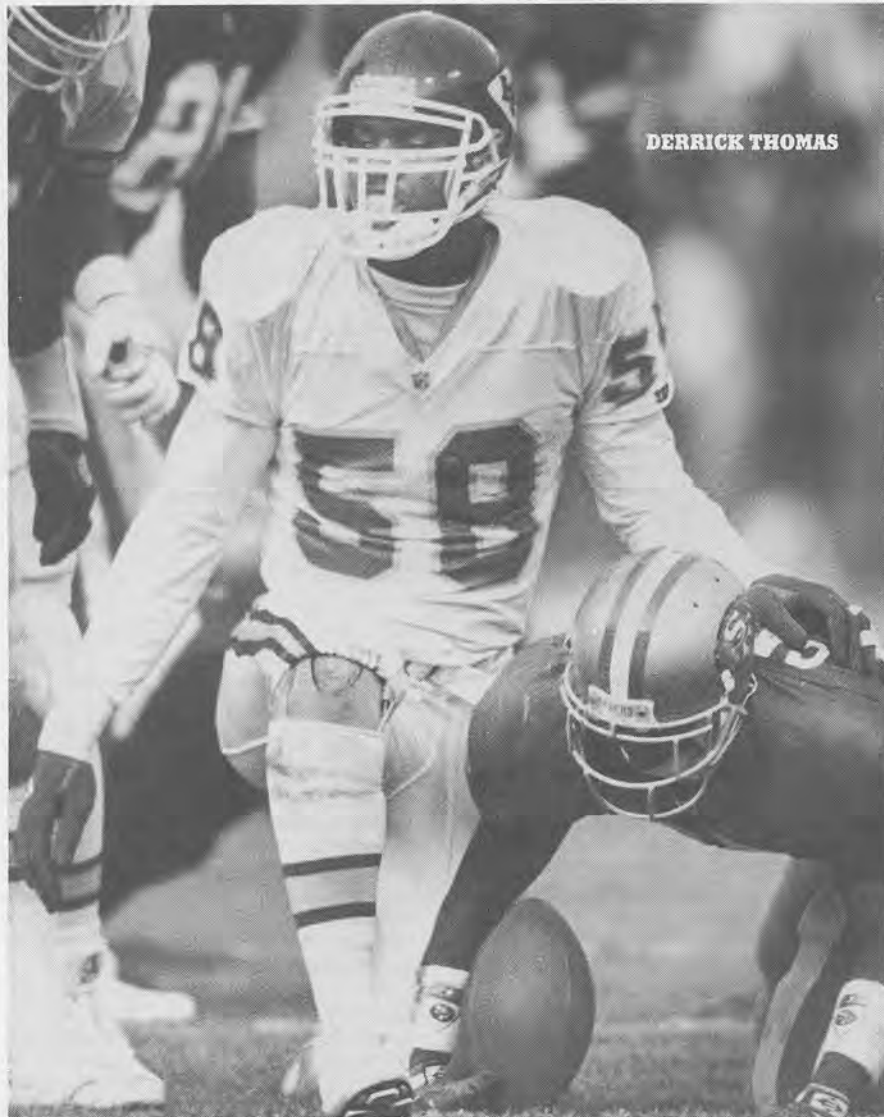
Nick Lowery is 38 now but he keeps on going. He kicked 23 of 29 field goals, although he tried only one over 50 yards. Carter is a dangerous punt returner.

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
5	Aguilar, Louie	P	6-2	215	28	Utah State
56	Ale, Arnold	LB	6-2	230	24	UCLA
51	Alexander, Ken	LB	6-3	254	23	Florida State
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	34	USC
76	Alt, John	T	6-8	307	32	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	FB	5-11	221	28	Houston
93	Anderson, Dunstan	DE	6-4	260	24	Tulsa
50	Anderson, Erick	LB	6-1	236	26	Michigan
82	Barnett, Tim	WR	6-1	200	26	Jackson State
87	Bartrum, Mike	TE	6-4	234	24	Marshall
30	Bayless, Martin	S	6-2	219	32	Bowling Green
88	Birden, J.J.	WR	5-9	165	29	Oregon
14	Blundin, Matt	QB	6-6	233	25	Virginia
69	Booker, Vaughn	DE	6-5	290	26	Cincinnati
67	Boyd, Larry	DE	6-2	285	23	Arizona
34	Carter, Dale	CB	6-1	188	25	Tennessee
89	Cash, Keith	TE	6-4	240	25	Texas
99	Casillas, Tony	DT	6-3	273	31	Oklahoma
22	Cobb, Trevor	RB	5-9	190	24	Rice
24	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	30	Cal-Fullerton
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6-0	172	27	Central Arkansas
6	DeGraffenreid, Allan	WR	6-3	200	24	Ohio State
23	Dickerson, Ron	RB	6-0	211	23	Arkansas
2	Elliott, Lin	K	6-0	182	26	Texas Tech
59	Fields, Jaime	LB	5-11	230	24	Washington
91	Freese, Jerry	LB	6-2	221	24	NE Oklahoma
60	Gaddy, Robert	T	6-4	295	23	Alcorn State
49	Gay, Matt	S	5-11	180	24	Kansas
74	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	305	27	Appalachian St.
22	Grow, Monty	S	6-3	214	23	Florida
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6-2	299	26	Notre Dame
11	Hakal, Chris	QB	6-2	230	25	William & Mary
57	Harris, Bernardo	LB	6-2	238	23	North Carolina
83	Hughes, Danan	WR	6-1	201	24	Iowa
91	Johnson, Jimmie	TE	6-2	248	28	Howard
65	Knapp, Lindsay	OL	6-6	280	24	Notre Dame
62	Kwarta, Brel	G	6-2	290	23	Cal-Davis
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	207	38	Dartmouth
95	Ma'afala, Nick	DT	6-2	295	27	Hawaii
64	Martin, Emerson	G	6-2	293	23	Hampton
71	McCullough, Russ	T	6-10	315	26	Missouri
77	McDaniels, Pellom	DE	6-3	278	26	Oregon State
92	Mickell, Darren	DT	6-4	280	24	Florida
42	Mincy, Charles	S	5-11	197	25	Washington
9	Montgomery, Fred	WR	6-0	183	23	New Mexico
19	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	205	38	Notre Dame
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	269	31	Florida
75	Phillips, Joe	DT	6-5	300	31	SMU
39	Pickens, Bruce	CB	5-11	190	26	Nebraska
31	Randall, Brian	CB	6-0	185	23	Delaware State
52	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6-2	241	27	Fresno State
97	Saleaumua, Dan	DT	6-0	300	30	Arizona State
68	Shields, Will	G	6-2	295	23	Nebraska
55	Shufelt, Pete	LB	6-2	241	25	UTEP
68	Siglar, Ricky	T	6-7	304	28	San Jose State
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6-1	250	27	Texas Christian
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	273	28	Nebraska
21	Stephens, John	RB	6-1	215	28	NW Louisiana
18	Stephens, Michael	WR	6-1	195	22	Nevada
79	Scott, Dave	G	6-4	290	27	Penn State
27	Taylor, Jay	CB	5-10	170	27	San Jose State
25	Terry, Doug	S	5-11	197	25	Kansas
58	Thomas, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	27	Alabama
45	Thompson, Ernie	FB	5-11	257	25	Indiana
94	Traylor, Keith	DE	6-2	290	25	Central Oklahoma
73	Valerio, Joe	OL	6-5	295	25	Pennsylvania
10	Van Pelt, Alex	QB	6-1	219	24	Pittsburgh
72	Villa, Danny	G	6-5	300	30	Arizona State
26	Watson, Tim	S	6-1	213	24	Howard
41	Whitmore, David	S	6-0	232	27	Stephen F. Austin
47	Wilburn, Barry	CB	6-3	186	31	Mississippi

DRAFTES

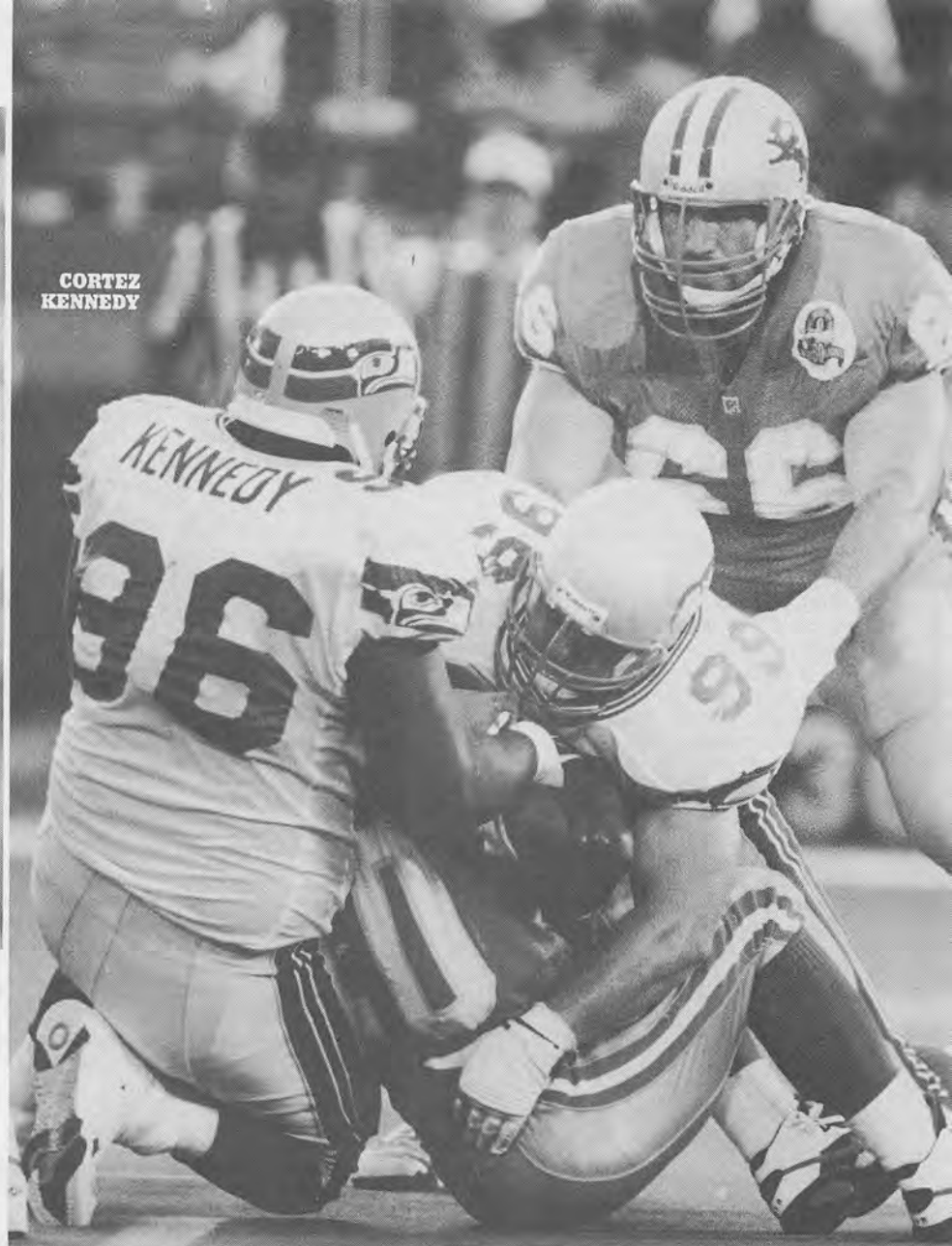
rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Hill, Greg	RB	6-1	207	Texas A&M
2	Bennett, Donnell	RB	6-0	247	Miami
3	Dawson, Lake	WR	6-1	202	Notre Dame
3	Penn, Chris	WR	6-2	193	Tulsa
4	Walker, Bracey	DB	5-11	185	North Carolina
5	Burton, James	DB	5-9	180	Fresno State
5	Waldrop, Rob	DT	6-2	274	Arizona
6	Daigle, Anthony	RB	5-11	195	Fresno State
7	Matthews, Steve	QB	6-4	219	Memphis State
7	Greene, Tracy	TE	6-5	258	Grambling



DERRICK THOMAS



RICK MIRER



CORTEZ KENNEDY

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Kasay, 98 points on 29 extra points and 23 field goals. . .9th
RUSHING—Warren, 1,072 on 273 carries, 3.9 avg., 7 TDs. . .3rd
PASSING—Mirer, 274 of 486 attempts for 2,833 yards and 12 TDs. . .14th
RECEIVING—Blades, 80 receptions for 945 yards, 11.8 avg., 3 TDs. . .5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Robinson, 9 for 80 yards, 8.9 average. . .T1st
PUNTING—Tuten, 90 punts, 44.5 average, longest 64 yards. . .3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 32 for 270 yards, 8.4 average. . .10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bates, 30 for 603 yards, 20.1 average. . .7th
SACKS—Sinclair, 8.0 sacks. . .T12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Indianapolis (N)
 13 TAMPA BAY (N)
 20 MINNESOTA (N)
 26 At San Francisco (N)

1994 SCHEDULE 1993 SCORES

September	4	At Washington	—
	11	At L.A. Raiders	23-27
	18	SAN DIEGO	31-14
	25	PITTSBURGH	16-6
October	2	At Indianapolis	—
	9	DENVER	9-17
	16	OPEN DATE	—
	23	At Kansas City	24-34
	30	At San Diego	12-18
November	6	CINCINNATI	19-10
	13	At Denver	17-28
	20	TAMPA BAY	—
	27	KANSAS CITY	16-31
December	4	INDIANAPOLIS	—
	11	At Houston	14-24
	18	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	13-17
	24	At Cleveland	22-5

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

The Seahawks tried to buy their way into the playoffs this season, which isn't a bad idea, but they learned that free agency works both ways. Seattle fired some of the opening shots of the free-agent season when it signed two Pro Bowlers, cornerback Nate Odomes and offensive tackle Howard Ballard, both of Buffalo. Odomes figured to strengthen the secondary and Ballard, known as "The House," is a blocker who can lead the Seahawks' improved running game.

Then the free-agent losses started coming in. The loss of right offensive tackle Andy Heck to Chicago was expected, considering the Seahawks' pursuit of Ballard. But the coming of Odomes was followed by the departure of corner Dwayne Harper to San Diego. The Seahawks then lost another offensive lineman, left guard Darrick Brilz, to Cincinnati. That was followed by a shock, the defection to Pittsburgh of veteran fullback John L. Williams.

It's conceivable that Seattle could be in worse shape than it started. What may balance off the losses is the development of second-year quarterback Rick Mirer. It appears

that Bill Walsh was on target when, as an NBC commentator broadcasting Notre Dame games three years ago, he predicted that Mirer would be a great pro. If there was any surprise, it was that Mirer was such an immediate hit. He became the first rookie quarterback since Joe Ferguson of Buffalo to start all of his team's games. Only Ferguson in 1973 and Jim Plunkett of New England in 1971 accomplished that feat since the merger of the NFL and the former American Football League in 1970.

Mirer set three NFL rookie records in the bargain. He attempted more passes (486), completed more of them (274), and gained more passing yards (2,833) than any freshman quarterback before him. He also ran for more yards than all but two Seahawks, finishing just 28 yards behind runner-up Williams. Amazingly strong and durable, he missed only 28 of 1,019 plays, 23 in a game against New England when he was poked in the eye and suffered vision problems.

More impressive is what he did for his team psychologically. With a mere babe at the controls, the Seahawks improved their won-lost

record from 2-14 to 6-10. Seattle offense was an oxymoron in 1992. Mirer led two fourth-quarter comebacks, a 14-play drive against New England that was culminated by his one-yard pass for the winning touchdown with 25 seconds to play and a 13-play, 90-yard drive which tied Phoenix before the Cardinals finally won in overtime. Mirer also won both ends of his home-and-home series with the NFL's other wonder rookie quarterback, Drew Bledsoe of the Patriots.

Mirer's progress may be determined by the offensive line, which has been reshuffled for the fourth time in four seasons. Ballard replaces Heck at right tackle and Mitch Ferrotte moves into Brilz's spot at left guard. Ferrotte, another ex-Bill signed as a free agent last year, missed the entire season due to a neck injury. Not only is the injury healed, but Ferrotte bulked himself up to 286 pounds, 16 over his previous weight. "I'm in the best shape of my career," he said. Ray Roberts is a potential star at left tackle. He and 36-year-old center Ray Donaldson played every down a year ago. Since Donaldson is entering his 16th season, the Seahawks are glad Joe Tofflemire, who missed all of '93 with an aching shoulder, is ready to play again. The draft brings the talented and versatile Kevin Mawae of LSU, who can play every position on the

Brian Blades broke Steve Largent's single-season record by catching 80 passes. He is consistent. This was his third season with 70 or more receptions. His per-catch average was just 11.8 yards, but that was because Mirer's time in the pocket was limited. Ex-Cowboy Kelvin Martin had 57 catches for a 14-yard average and five touchdowns. There is not much depth to the receiver corps, so an accelerated development of the speedy Michael Bates is needed. A special-teams' ace, the most prolific in team history, Bates had 22 tackles, all but two solo. He also downed punts at the 1-, 4-, and 2-yard lines, forced two fumbles and recovered both, and had five tackles inside the 5-yard line on kickoff returns. He averaged 20.1 yards himself per kickoff. The tight end, Ferrell Edmunds, caught 24 passes, two for touchdowns.

There are some major changes in the defensive line, which will be welcome news to Cortez Kennedy, the superb tackle who was frustrated by attempting to get by two or three blockers on every play. The No. 1 draft choice is Sam Adams of Texas A&M, an impressive talent who just turned 21. He could be used at end or tackle. End Michael Sinclair, who led the team with eight sacks despite missing the last seven games, is back. Ends Michael McCrary and Antonio Edwards spent their rookie seasons playing in the nickel defense. McCrary had four sacks and Edwards three.

Linebacker Terry Wooden returned from a knee injury not quite like his old self but still capable of big plays. Rod Stephens beat out Dave Wyman at middle linebacker to add speed and more athletic ability. The worry is that Rufus Porter, an outstanding blitzing, won't recover fully from his Achilles' tendon injury. Dennis Murphy filled in last season but he will get challenges from youngsters Dean Wells and Bob Spituiski.

There should be two new starting cornerbacks, with second-year pro Carlton Gray

joining Odomes. Gray had three interceptions as a rookie despite missing seven games with an ankle injury. Patrick Hunter had four interceptions and is one of the better NFL corners, but his alcohol problem was so severe that he can't be counted upon. All-pro free safety Eugene Robinson led the league in interceptions with nine and led the Seahawks with 111 tackles. He was also voted the NFL's "Man of the Year" for his off-the-field activities. Robert Blackmon is a fixture at strong safety.

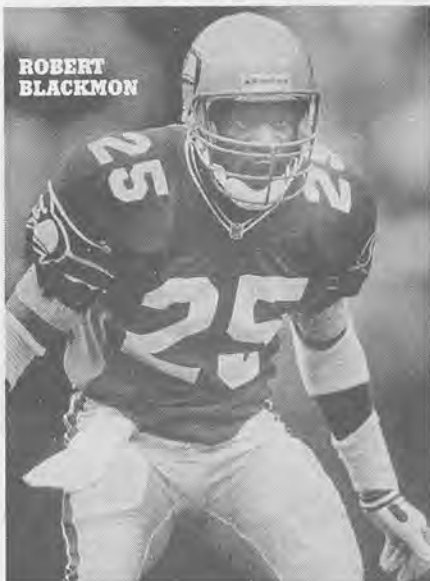
John Kasay kicked 23 of 28 field goals, including seven of more than 45 yards. His value should increase with the new rule pushing the kickoff spot back to the 30-yard line. His average hang time is 4.33 seconds. With Bates covering those kicks, Seattle may benefit from the rule more than any other team. Rick Tuten had an outstanding year with a 44.5-yard average and 21 punts inside the 20.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
39	Allred, Brian	CB	5-10	175	25	Sacramento St.
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	336	31	Alabama A&M
15	Barrett, Reggie	WR	6-3	215	25	UTEP
81	Bates, Michael	WR	5-10	189	25	Arizona
25	Blackmon, Robert	S	6-0	197	27	Baylor
69	Blackshear, Jeff	G	6-6	315	25	NE Louisiana
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	189	28	Miami
51	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	230	29	Memphis State
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	281	34	Clemson
79	Childs, Jason	T	6-4	285	25	North Dakota
50	Davis, Anthony	LB	6-0	231	25	Utah
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	300	36	Georgia
82	Edmunds, Ferrell	TE	6-6	254	29	Maryland
67	Edwards, Antonio	DE	6-3	270	24	Valdosta State
59	Ferrotte, Mitch	G	6-3	286	29	Penn State
18	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	32	Maryland
54	Gordon, Steve	C	6-3	279	25	California
7	Graham, Jeff	QB	6-5	220	28	Long Beach St.
26	Gray, Carlton	CB	6-0	191	23	UCLA
67	Green, Paul	TE	6-3	230	28	USC
76	Hitchcock, Bill	G	6-6	291	29	Purdue
27	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	186	30	Nevada
43	Johnson, Tracy	FB	6-0	230	28	Clemson
93	Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	242	35	Alabama
83	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	237	33	Louisiana Tech
4	Kasay, John	K	5-10	189	25	Georgia
78	Keim, Mike	T	6-7	301	29	BYU
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT	6-3	293	26	Miami
84	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	162	29	Boston College
44	McCloughan, Dave	S	6-1	185	28	Colorado
92	McCrary, Michael	DE	6-4	250	24	Wake Forest
10	McGwire, Dan	QB	6-8	239	27	San Diego St.
3	Mirer, Rick	QB	6-2	216	24	Notre Dame
98	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	31	Oklahoma
72	Nash, Joe	DT	6-3	278	34	Boston College
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	29	Wisconsin
97	Porter, Rufus	LB	6-1	227	29	Southern
73	Roberts, Ray	T	6-6	304	25	Virginia
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	191	31	Colgate
21	Robinson, Rafael	S	5-11	200	25	Wisconsin
91	Rodgers, Tyrone	DT	6-3	266	25	Washington
71	Shaw, Rickie	T	6-4	294	25	North Carolina
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE	6-4	271	26	E. New Mexico
58	Spituiski, Bob	LB	6-3	235	25	Central Florida
94	Stephens, Rod	LB	6-1	237	28	Georgia Tech
85	Thomas, Doug	WR	5-10	178	25	Clemson
86	Thomas, Robb	WR	5-11	175	28	Oregon State
56	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6-3	273	29	Arizona
99	Tuagaloa, Natu	DE	6-4	274	28	California
14	Tuten, Rick	P	6-2	218	29	Florida State
22	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5-9	203	24	Michigan
42	Warren, Chris	RB	6-2	225	27	Ferrum
88	Warren, Terrence	WR	6-1	200	28	Hampton
95	Wells, Dean	LB	6-3	238	24	Kentucky
90	Wooden, Terry	LB	6-3	236	27	Syracuse

DRAFTTEES

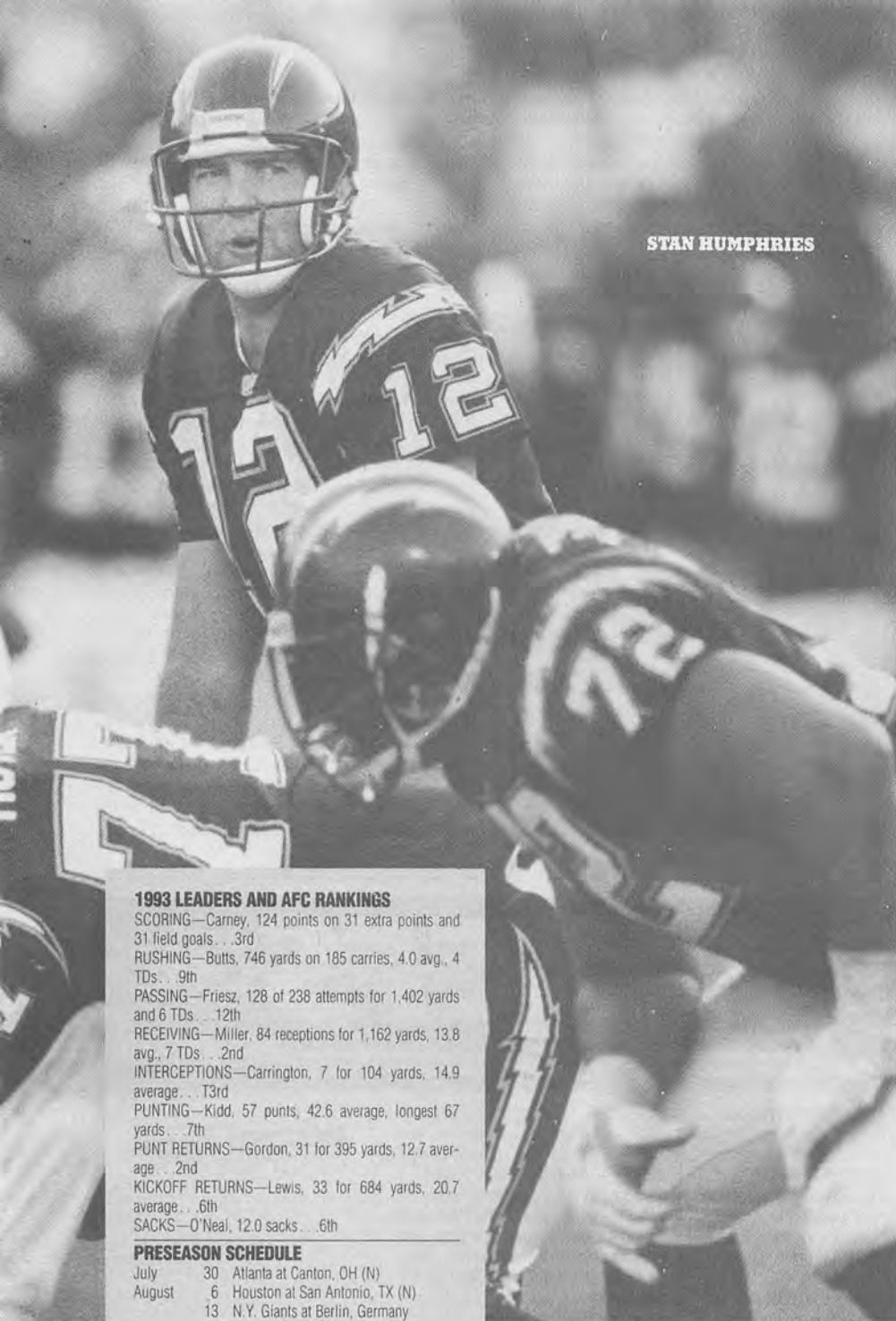
rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Adams, Sam	DE	6-2	292	Texas A&M
2	Mawae, Kevin	C	6-3	285	LSU
3	Smith, Lamar	RB	5-11	222	Houston
4	Whigham, Larry	DB	6-2	204	NE Louisiana
7	Crumpler, Carlester	TE	6-6	245	East Carolina



line. Their mission for 1994 is to reduce the number of times Mirer is sacked. He went down 47 times as a rookie.

The Seahawks improved their rushing by 419 yards (26 yards per game) and finished fourth in the NFL. That was with their No. 1 man, Chris Warren, sidelined for the last two games after running for 1,072 yards in the first 14. He finished third in the AFC, just 16 yards out of second. With Williams gone, Warren's pass-catching ability will be featured more often. During Warren's absence, ex-Patriot Jon Vaughn stepped in and produced 131 yards in a victory over Pittsburgh. The Seahawks had a 100-yard rusher in each of their last three games. Low-slung Lamar Smith, voted the University of Houston's Most Valuable Player despite his missing half the season, will contend with journeyman Tracy Johnson for the fullback job.





STAN HUMPHRIES

1993 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Carney, 124 points on 31 extra points and 31 field goals. . . 3rd
 RUSHING—Butts, 746 yards on 185 carries, 4.0 avg., 4 TDs. . . 9th
 PASSING—Friesz, 128 of 238 attempts for 1,402 yards and 6 TDs. . . 12th
 RECEIVING—Miller, 84 receptions for 1,162 yards, 13.8 avg., 7 TDs. . . 2nd
 INTERCEPTIONS—Carrington, 7 for 104 yards, 14.9 average. . . 3rd
 PUNTING—Kidd, 57 punts, 42.6 average, longest 67 yards. . . 7th
 PUNT RETURNS—Gordon, 31 for 395 yards, 12.7 average. . . 2nd
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 33 for 684 yards, 20.7 average. . . 6th
 SACKS—O'Neal, 12.0 sacks. . . 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	30	Atlanta at Canton, OH (N)
August	6	Houston at San Antonio, TX (N)
	13	N.Y. Giants at Berlin, Germany
	18	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
	25	L.A. RAMS (N)

1994 SCHEDULE		1993 SCORES
September	4	At Denver (N) . . . 17-34
	11	CINCINNATI . . . —
	18	At Seattle . . . 14-31
	25	At L.A. Raiders . . . 30-23
October	2	OPEN DATE . . . —
	9	KANSAS CITY . . . 14-17
	16	At New Orleans . . . —
	23	DENVER . . . 13-10
	30	SEATTLE . . . 18-12
November	6	At Atlanta . . . —
	13	At Kansas City . . . 24-28
	20	At New England . . . —
	27	L.A. RAMS . . . —
December	5	L.A. RAIDERS (N) . . . 7-12
	11	SAN FRANCISCO . . . —
	18	At N.Y. Jets . . . —
	24	PITTSBURGH . . . 3-16

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

With Alex Spanos, the Chargers' owner, it's been a case of "Advance! . . . Fall back! . . . Fall back again!" In 1992 the Chargers, after a nine-year drought, won 11 games and the AFC Western Division championship. They beat Kansas City in the playoffs before falling in Miami. "Wait till next year!" crowed the San Diego faithful. Next year came and the Chargers, stripped down by free agency, fell to 8-8 and out of the playoffs.

As they prepare for the 1994 season, the Chargers are further stripped down. Spanos has himself to blame. No wonder general manager Bobby Beathard and coach Bobby Ross thought about quitting. In two seasons the Chargers have lost star wide receiver Anthony Miller, running back Rod Bernstine, line-

backers Henry Rolling, Dennis Murphy, and the vastly underrated Gary Plummer, quarterback John Friesz, guards Dave Richards and Mike Zandofsky, tackle Mike Withycombe, and cornerbacks Tony Blaylock and Donald Frank. In addition, running back Marion Butts, defensive end Burt Grossman, tackle Broderick Thompson, and wide receiver Nate Lewis were traded away. The Chargers lost an outstanding guard, Eric Moten, because of injury.

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
52	Anno, Sam	LB	6-3	240	29	USC
85	Barnes, Johnnie	WR	6-1	180	26	Hampton
	Bennett, Darren	P	6-5	235	29	None
37	Boles, Eric	TE	6-3	210	24	Central Wash.
95	Brady, Jeff	LB	6-1	235	26	Kentucky
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	295	36	Colorado
58	Bush, Lewis	LB	6-2	245	25	Washington State
22	Byrd, Gill	DB	5-11	198	33	San Jose State
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	170	30	Notre Dame
29	Carrington, Darren	FS	6-2	200	28	Northern Arizona
44	Castle, Eric	FS	6-3	212	24	Oregon
68	Cocozzo, Joe	G	6-4	300	24	Michigan
51	Crews, Terry	LB	6-2	245	26	Western Michigan
93	Davis, Reuben	DT	6-5	340	29	North Carolina
23	Dunson, Walter	WR	5-9	173	24	Middle Tenn. St.
84	Dyal, Mike	TE	6-2	240	28	Texas A&I
40	Fuller, James	SS	6-0	208	25	Portland State
56	Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	240	30	Iowa State
21	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	182	24	Stanford
7	Green, Trent	DB	6-3	211	24	Indiana
92	Griggs, David	LB	6-3	250	27	Virginia
53	Hall, Courtney	OL	6-1	281	26	Rice
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	207	30	Iowa
28	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	175	28	S.C. State
34	Hendrickson, Steve	HB/LB	6-0	250	28	California
12	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	223	29	NE Louisiana
80	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	5-11	172	25	Central Florida
89	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	180	31	Arizona
99	Johnson, Raylee	DE	6-3	245	24	Arkansas
74	Jonassen, Eric	T	6-5	310	26	Bloomsburg
10	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	33	Northwestern
98	Lee, Shawn	DT	6-2	300	28	North Alabama
81	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	181	29	Mesa
63	May, Deems	TE	6-4	263	25	North Carolina
6	McAlister, Charles	P	6-3	210	25	North Carolina
20	Means, Natrone	RB	5-10	245	22	North Carolina
71	Millinchik, Joe	G	6-5	300	31	N.C. State
54	Miller, Doug	LB	6-3	232	25	South Dakota St.
94	Mims, Chris	DL	6-5	290	24	Tennessee
77	Moten, Eric	OL	6-2	306	26	Michigan State
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	265	30	Oklahoma State
86	Pupunu, Alfred	TE	6-2	255	25	Weber State
24	Richard, Stanley	FS	6-2	197	27	Texas
55	Seau, Junior	LB	6-3	250	25	USC
82	Seay, Mark	WR	6-0	175	27	Long Beach St.
63	Smoot, Raymond	OL	6-4	305	24	LSU
8	Snyder, Sean	P	6-2	190	25	Kansas State
59	Stanley, Israel	DE	6-2	250	24	Arizona State
1	Sullivan, Kent	P	6-0	202	27	Cal Lutheran
72	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	295	29	Rutgers
47	Thomas, Chris	WR	6-1	180	23	Cal-Poly SLO
25	VanHorse, Sean	CB	5-10	180	26	Howard
90	White, Reggie	DT	6-4	300	24	N. Carolina A&T
64	Whitley, Curtis	C	6-1	285	25	Clemson
57	Williams, Jerrol	LB	6-4	240	27	Purdue
27	Williams, Michael	DB	5-10	185	24	UCLA
87	Young, Duane	TE	6-1	270	26	Michigan State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Davis, Isaac	G	6-2	325	Arkansas
2	Parker, Vaughn	G	6-2	305	UCLA
3	Coleman, Andre	WR	5-10	170	Kansas State
3	Clark, Willie	DB	5-10	181	Notre Dame
5	Laird, Aaron	TE	6-3	235	New Mexico St.
5	Harrison, Rodney	DB	6-1	200	Western Illinois
5	Krein, Darren	DE	6-4	258	Miami
5	Vinson, Tony	RB	6-2	221	Towson State
7	Beehn, Zane	LB	6-4	250	Kentucky

Vance Johnson, who caught 36 passes for Denver, was brought in to replace Miller, who caught 84 in San Diego. The Chargers traded for Tony Martin, who was excess baggage in Miami. Gale Gilbert, who played in one game in the last seven seasons, replaces Friesz as the backup quarterback. Stan Brock, 36, was brought in to play right tackle. The Chargers



JUNIOR SEAU

didn't shoot all blanks in free agency. Outside linebacker Dennis Gibson was developing into a star at Detroit. Reuben Davis was a versatile defensive-line starter for Arizona. Seattle cornerback Dwayne Harper will also help. But all that turmoil can't be good for a team that was still searching for its identity when it won the division.

If the Chargers are to overcome their handicaps this season, they will have to get super-



VANCE JOHNSON

human efforts from quarterback Stan Humphries and second-year running back Natrone Means. Humphries missed six games last year because of injuries. In the 10 games he started, San Diego was 6-4. In the final two games, he threw three touchdown passes against Miami and had a 272-yard day against Tampa Bay, both Charger victories which allowed the team to break even for the season. Since then Humphries' two most dangerous receivers, Miller and Lewis, have been subtracted. His season paralleled that of the Chargers. For the first month the team had trouble scoring a touchdown. In the last six games it averaged 26 points. Humphries has a history of missing games because of injury, which makes the Gilbert-for-Friesz change seem so risky. Means finished second to Butts in rushing with 645 yards. Both averaged four yards per carry with Means getting 25 fewer carries. Neither player was a factor in the passing game. What Ross hopes is that the Means he saw in the Monday night game in which San Diego ran Miami out of the playoffs will be the Means he gets on a regular basis this season. The 245-pound Means ran for 188 yards in 18 carries that night, scoring three touchdowns.

Means and Humphries should be helped most by Courtney Hall, one of the NFL's best centers, and by Harry Swayne, the left tackle the Chargers had to reward in order to keep him from leaving as a free agent. Brock is at right tackle. The problem at guard is in the hands of kids. Joe Cocozzo ended up on the

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right side as a rookie. The first two draftees were guards, huge Isaac Davis of Arkansas and Vaughn Parker of UCLA, the latter of whom made the all-Pac-10 team for three consecutive seasons. Tight end Duane Young is a powerful force in the running game.

With the wide-receiving and running-back corps whittled down, Ronnie Harmon becomes more important in the Charger offensive scheme. He produced 887 yards running the ball and catching it. He had only 46 carries, but his average was 4.7 yards. His 73 receptions were second on the team and averaged 9.2 yards. He'll be asked to do more in



'94. Martin, Johnson, and Shawn Jefferson fight it out for the starting jobs at wide receiver. Tight end/H-back Alfred Pupunu becomes more important in the passing game.

The strength of the defensive line is in the ends, where Leslie O'Neal had 12 sacks, was co-Most Valuable Player with linebacker Ju-

nior Seau, and went to the Pro Bowl again. With Grossman gone, Chris Mims has left end all to himself. He had seven sacks. Davis will start alongside O'Neal with Shawn Lee at left tackle. Seau is moved all around the field, which allows the Chargers to direct him to the opponents' point of attack. He led the team with 129 tackles, 19 of which were for losses. Against Houston he intercepted two passes, both leading to scores. He may be the best defensive player in the league. The Chargers thought their best free-agent signing a year ago was Pittsburgh linebacker Jerrol Williams, but he suffered a shoulder injury and missed the last two thirds of the season. They need a big comeback from him. Gibson will play the other spot.

Harper should upgrade the secondary. Strong safety Darren Carrington had interceptions in the last five games. Stanley Richards is a solid free safety. Darrien Gordon, last year's top draftee, won a starting job in the 11th game and gave indications that he will keep it for a long time.

Kicker John Carney was the Charger offense early in the season when he extended his NFL record to 29 consecutive field goals. He finished the season 31-for-40 with 124 points. He may be more important this year. John Kidd averaged 42.6 yards on 57 punts and scored a touchdown on a fake field goal. Gordon was second in the AFC with a 12.7-yard punt-return average. The return game should be helped by Andre Coleman, a third-rounder from Kansas State.

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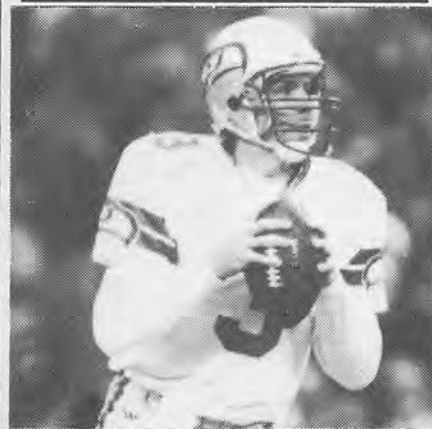
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2. Winnipeg Blue Bombers
3. Toronto Argonauts
4. Baltimore CFL Colts
5. Hamilton Tiger-Cats
6. Shreveport Pirates

WESTERN DIVISION

1. Calgary Stampeders
2. Sacramento Gold Miners
3. B.C. Lions
4. Edmonton Eskimos
5. Saskatchewan Roughriders
6. Las Vegas Posse

John E. Sokolowski/JOGO Inc.

It was in 1855 that Horace Greeley urged young men to go west for a shot at finding fame and fortune. Some 138 years later, commissioner Larry Smith urged the not-so-young men of the Canadian Football League to go south in quest of similar rewards. And like those who listened to Greeley, it appears the CFL governors have taken Smith's advice wholeheartedly. The 102-year-old league will open the 1994 season with four U.S.-based teams; if Smith has his way, that number will double by the 1995 season.

Baltimore, Shreveport, and Las Vegas will join Sacramento, which became the CFL's first franchise outside Canada last season, and talk is that San Antonio—which made an ill-fated attempt to join the league last year—Portland, Memphis, Orlando, Worcester, and, aloha, Hawaii are all vying for a place in the CFL lodge within the next season or two. The move south has already reaped benefits. The addition of Sacramento, Las Vegas, and Baltimore has put \$9 million into league coffers, while Shreveport provided a haven for the unpopular owners of the Ottawa Rough Riders, Bernie and Lonie Gieberman, while allowing for a new regime, headed by local businessman Dr. Bruce Firestone, in Ottawa.

The seeming eagerness of U.S. cities to join the CFL has spurred the league to double the expansion fee to \$6 million from \$3 million for next season. And that, Smith points out, still makes a CFL franchise an immensely more affordable product for would-be team owners in comparison with buying into the NFL, NBA, NHL, or Major League Baseball. In its expansion scheme, the CFL has wisely kept its sights on U.S. communities which, because of

Angelo Snipes, Ottawa



John E. Sokolowski/JOGO Inc.

their population, have little or no possibility of gaining an NFL franchise. The one exception, perhaps, is Baltimore, but even there the CFL waited patiently until the city and the state of Maryland had exhausted their attempts, not only to gain an NFL expansion franchise but to attract an existing team seeking to move from its present site, before awarding CFL membership to Virginia businessman Jim Speros.

"As soon as we started awarding franchises in the U.S., the interest [to join the CFL] started to bubble," said Smith. "And in Canada it's rekindled interest. It's almost like a rebirth." Smith declined to go so far as to say that expansion into the U.S. saved the CFL from extinction. But there's no doubt that both the privately- and publicly-owned teams have welcomed the much-needed cash infusion which the new teams have provided. Even original detractors such as the Winnipeg Blue Bombers have remained silent as they accepted their share of expansion monies.

"I wouldn't say expansion allowed for survival of the league, but I'd certainly say it enhanced the financial perspectives of Canadian teams," Smith said. "It's provided a bridge to the future. It provided the time and opportunity to set up a television contract in the U.S.,

that in some ways he's surprised that expansion into the U.S. has come about so quickly. "I suddenly look back and say, 'Wow, we've increased the number of teams by 50 percent in just two years,'" he said. "But on the other hand, I'm not surprised it's happened as quickly as it has. The time was right. The opportunity was there with the folding of the World League of American Football. I felt we were in a good position to do this if we did things properly. The only thing stopping us from being a big success in the States is the lack of a TV contract."

Rapid expansion has not been without its pitfalls, however. The league fumbled on its first expansion attempt in 1993 when the San Antonio Texans, as they were to be called, withdrew from the league just two weeks after being granted a franchise. Then, this past winter, the league was all set to announce Orlando's entry. A hotel ballroom was reserved for a noon press conference and satellite time was booked to beam the news back to Canadian cities. But a morning meeting, which was expected to be a mere rubber-stamping of the acceptance of Orlando, once again left Smith and the league governors red-faced as the would-be team owners failed to come up with the necessary funds.

Smith has also faced criticism at home in Canada from those who feel moving south will eventually destroy the flavor of the Canadian game (with its longer and wider field, 12 players per side, and unique single-point kicking rules) as U.S. owners slowly whittle away at the game to bring it more into line with the game as Americans know it. One major concern is that the league's name will eventually disappear, giving way to something like the North American Football League or the Can-Am Football League. Another is that two U.S.-based teams will end up playing for the coveted Grey Cup—presented 85 years ago by the Earl of Grey, then Canada's governor general—for football supremacy in Canada.

"The Grey Cup should be retired to Canada's Football Hall of Fame," suggested an angry fan. "It was meant to go to the football champion of Canada, and it won't mean a thing to Americans. Let them come up with a new trophy."

Smith didn't exactly dispel such fears when he admitted during Grey Cup week last fall that, yes, he could see the day when the name might be changed. But he said later that it was just an off-the-cuff comment in response to a reporter's question and not a league policy to change the name eventually.

"It's something that may never occur," he said, explaining that he'd like to see enough U.S.-based teams to form a U.S. Division, whose winner would meet the winner of a Canadian Division for the Grey Cup. In that way, a Canadian team would always compete for Earl Grey's chalice. Smith insists that rather than viewing expansion into the U.S. as a destruction of a Canadian institution, he looks at it as "exporting Canadian technology."

That's a line he might have trouble selling.

1993 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

WESTERN DIVISION	w	l	t	pts	off	def
Calgary	15	3	0	30	646	418
Edmonton	12	6	0	24	507	372
Saskatchewan	11	7	0	22	511	495
British Columbia	10	8	0	20	574	583
Sacramento	6	12	0	12	498	509

EASTERN DIVISION	w	l	t	pts	off	def
Winnipeg	14	4	0	28	646	421
Hamilton	6	12	0	12	316	567
Ottawa	4	14	0	8	387	517
Toronto	3	15	0	6	390	593

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Hamilton 21 • Ottawa 10
Calgary 17 • British Columbia 9
Edmonton 51 • Saskatchewan 13

DIVISION FINALS

Winnipeg 20 • Hamilton 19
Edmonton 29 • Calgary 15

GREY CUP

Edmonton 33 • Winnipeg 23

which in the long term will provide us with the revenue base to flourish."

Smith, who has longed for a contract with one of the major U.S. networks, met with CBS officials early in the new year, shortly after CBS lost its NFL telecast rights to the Fox Network. While he concedes that it is unlikely CBS will broadcast CFL games this season, Smith said further meetings are planned in hopes that the network can be convinced to carry some games in 1995. At present, some games are carried by ESPN.

Smith, a former fullback/slotback with the Montreal Alouettes who took over as commissioner in the spring of 1992 after a successful career in the food products industry, admits

EASTERN DIVISION

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(4-14) Some people might call it a house-cleaning. But it was more like a demolishing and rebuilding. The changes start right at the top, where local businessman Dr. Bruce Firestone came to the rescue of the CFL when he purchased the Rough Riders from Bernie and Lonie Glibberman, who had worn out their welcome like a pachyderm pawing a cheap rug. To their credit the Glibermans, whose 2½-year stint in Ottawa had become a multi-ring circus, knew they had become persona non grata and took their act to Shreveport, LA.

Firestone, who brought NHL hockey back to Ottawa in 1992 before selling his interest, hired former Saskatchewan Roughrider president Phil Kershaw to run the day-to-day operations. Kershaw, in turn, hired Adam Rita, who had led the Toronto Argonauts to the Grey Cup in 1991 before being unceremoniously fired midway through the following season, as his head coach and director of football operations. In a strange twist, Mike McCarthy, who as Argo general manager gave Rita his walking papers, now works under Rita as the Riders' director of player personnel.

Just a few days after climbing into the driver's seat, Rita played his part in a three-way swap that saw Ottawa quarterback Tom Burgess (Colgate) go to Saskatchewan, while Roughrider pivot Kent Austin (Mississippi) went to B.C. and Lions quarterback Danny Barrett ended up in Ottawa. Rita followed that by signing free-agent running back Michael

Greg Stumon, Shreveport



John E. Sokolowski/JOGO Inc.

Richardson (Louisiana Tech), the CFL's leading rusher the past two seasons, away from Winnipeg and former Hamilton quarterback Don McPherson. Earlier, Rita had signed speedy Canadian receiver Nick Mazzoli, who had become a free agent with Hamilton, and re-signed all-star defensive end John Kropke (Illinois State), who had played out his option and threatened not to return if the Glibermans continued to operate the team.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(14-4) The Bombers have had what seems like an open pipeline to some of the premier linebackers in the CFL. They'd better hope someone hasn't turned off the tap. The defending Eastern champions lost two of their finest linebackers in the offseason when veteran Greg Battle (Arizona State), a two-time winner of the league's top defensive player honors, and Elfrid Payton (Grambling) departed for the greener pastures (make that pastures with more greenbacks) of the new expansion clubs. Battle signed with Las Vegas and Payton with Shreveport. The Bombers also lost running back Michael Richardson (Louisiana Tech) via free agency to Ottawa.

General manager and head coach Cal Murphy, while upset at losing the trio, wasn't concerned about finding replacements. "We'll have some good linebackers," he promised. "Del Lyles [Utah State], who played a few games for us last year, is a good one and so is Greg Clark. And don't forget we still have Paul Randolph [Tennessee-Martin]." Murphy already had a replacement for Richardson last year in Blaise Bryant (Iowa State), who filled in on occasion. Also signed for this year is Keith Woodside (Texas A&M), a 5-11, 215-pound speedster who caught 58 passes for the Green Bay Packers a couple of seasons ago.

Murphy's biggest coup, however, will occur if he can convince Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward (Florida State) to put his signature on a CFL contract. He'd be a huge steal for the league. The incentive which the Bombers—or any other CFL team—can offer Ward is the opportunity to mix football with an NBA career, since the seasons do not overlap (unless the CFL team reaches the playoffs). Ward would also be the ideal heir apparent to off-injured veteran Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech), who is recovering from a ruptured Achilles' tendon that kept him out of the Grey Cup game. While backup Sammy Garza (UTEP) turned in an admirable effort, the Bombers were no match for the Eskimos.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(3-15) It's been nothing but tragedy for the Argos since those short-lived days of euphoria in 1991 when, with the glittery ownership of Bruce McNall, Wayne Gretzky, and John Candy—the Three Amigos—and the on-field excitement of Rocket Ismail, they swept to the Grey Cup title. Since that success, the team has suffered a dramatic turn of fortune on the field and at the box office. And fate dealt them the ultimate tragedy when Candy, the only

owner still interested in maintaining a role with the team, suffered a fatal heart attack while filming a movie in early March.

With Candy's death, it left The Sports Network (Canada's equivalent of ESPN) to purchase the team for a reported \$6.5 million just weeks before the start of training camp. Even while he sought to unload the team, McNall, the majority owner, had attempted to prop up the faltering franchise by hiring Ron Barbaro, the retired president of Prudential Life Insurance Co. of America and a long-time Toronto resident, to run the show. Barbaro, who took over last September, brought back Bob O'Billovich as head coach and GM while returning

Marvin Graves, Toronto



Dennis Meyer to defensive coordinator, the role he held before becoming head coach midway through the previous season.

One of the great miscalculations of the 1993 season was quarterback Tracy Ham, who faltered badly after being the principal figure in a 16-player swap. The problem of what to do with him this season was solved when Ham signed with the new Baltimore franchise after becoming a free agent. That left the Argos with veteran Mike Kerrigan (Northwestern) and second-year pivot Reggie Slack (Auburn) as quarterback candidates, although they were hoping to sign either or both Marvin Graves (Syracuse) and Darren Studstill (West Virginia). A major acquisition was Saskatche-

wan free-agent slotback Jeff Fairholm (Arizona), who has topped 1,300 yards in receptions the past two years. He joins versatile running back Mike "Pinball" Clemons (William & Mary) and receiver Manny Hazard (Houston), one of the pleasant surprises of '93, as the class of the offense.

Defensively, the Argos need a major rebuilding. Just how well O'Billovich and new personnel director John Peterson do that could determine how the Boatmen fare.

BALTIMORE CFL COLTS

Football's back in Baltimore. Colts football at that. To be totally correct, we should refer to them as the CFL Colts, in order to differentiate them from the NFL Colts, who took it on the lam from Maryland to Indiana under the cover of darkness a decade ago. But as the expansion team's owner, Jim Speros, quipped, "What can we do about it if the media insists on dropping the CFL and referring to us as just the Colts?"

Whatever they're called, there's no doubt that fans in the Baltimore area are excited about having football back. Sure, the Redskins are just a few miles away in D.C., but the Colts—even the three-down variety—are a team they can call their own. With that in mind, more than 25,000 fans plopped down a \$15 pledge even before the franchise was granted and most followed up with season-ticket purchases when the Colts were born.

Speros took the right step toward building a solid on-field product when he hired Don Matthews, a vastly experienced CFL coach, away from the Saskatchewan Roughriders to be his head coach and director of football operations. Matthews previously had been a head coach in B.C. and Toronto and an assistant in two stints with Edmonton. His first player signing was veteran quarterback Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern), who could prove to be a dangerous gamble or a huge coup. The former CFL Player of the Year was a major flop in Toronto last season, but his poor performance could have been as much the fact that he was shoved into Darrel "Mouse" Davis's run-and-shoot offense, for which he's not suited, as it was a loss of ability. If Ham turns it around, then the Colts got a steal.

Matthews scored two more major free-agent coups, both of which should greatly benefit the defense, when he lured nose tackle Jearld Bayliss (Southern Mississippi), last year's Outstanding Defensive Player award winner, away from Saskatchewan, and linebacker O.J. Brigance (Rice) from the B.C. Lions. Brigance was second in the league in sacks (20). The Colts also signed linebacker Ken Benson (Arkansas), who was a starter with Toronto for two seasons.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(6-12) When the financially troubled Tiger-Cats packed quarterback Damon Allen off to Edmonton at the beginning of last season, they figured they not only saved a sizable salary, but had a ready replacement in Don

McPherson (Syracuse). But their presumptions were as off-target as McPherson's passes. The third-year pro simply wasn't ready to step into the starting role, especially behind a weak line that deteriorated with injuries to a couple of key veterans. McPherson was dreadful, completing only 41 percent of his passes, and by midseason 'Cats head coach and general manager John Gregory was scrambling for a replacement. He tried Lee Saltz (Temple), who promptly got hurt, and Canadian Bob Torrance (Calgary) before talking Todd Dillon (Long Beach State) out of retirement to take them into the playoffs.

Dillon has re-signed for this season and Torrance returns, but Gregory was still hunting for another challenger for the starting job as camp approached. He talked former Phoenix Cardinal Timm Rosenbach out of retirement, signed rookie Joe Malden (Missouri Western), and was talking to the Houston Oilers' Bucky Richardson and the Miami Dolphins' Doug Pederson. McPherson, by the way, became a free agent and signed with Ottawa. Former NFLer Bruce Perkins (Arizona State) provided strong running (812 yards) and wide receiver Earl Winfield (North Carolina) is back for his eighth year after recording his third 1,000-yard season.

Defensively, the Ticats are intact, but jobs could be on the line after Gregory recruited linebacker Curtis McMillan (Miami-Ohio), a 1992 Butkus Award finalist, and cornerback Derrick Crudup (Oklahoma) in the offseason.

The Ticats' biggest concern—other than quarterback—is off the field, where the club is still not out of financial danger despite an injection last season from a group headed by Toronto businessman David Macdonald. The Ticats' attendance hovered below 19,000, while team executives insisted they needed closer to 25,000 to remain viable. With the industrial city of Hamilton one of the hardest hit areas of the country by the current recession, chances of reaching that attendance total are far from good.

SHREVEPORT PIRATES

Of all the cities mentioned in the CFL's mad rush for expansion into the U.S., Shreveport was one community which never came up. But suddenly, there they were, a dozen or so businessmen and politicians from the deep south, sitting in a hotel conference room in the far north (Edmonton), attempting to convince the league that their city would be a fine place for Bernie and Lonie Glibberman, who were eager to flee from Ottawa, to relocate. The CFL governors bought their sales pitch and Shreveport, which played host to the short-lived Steamers of the World Football League in 1974, had a pro football team again.

But Shreveport also got the Glibermans, who made jambalaya out of the Ottawa Rough Riders. What had been a solid team was fragmented when the Glibermans brought in disgraced NFL defensive end Dexter Manley and foisted him on a coaching staff that realized that the one-time star was clearly over the hill.

Well, the good folks of Shreveport will be happy to know that the Glibermans are still bent on proving Manley can play. He was one of five Rough Riders they were allowed to take with them. The other four were backup quarterback Terrence Jones (Tulane), standout linebacker Greg Stumon (Southern Arkansas), wide receiver Wayne Walker (Texas Tech), and defensive back Joe Mero (LSU).

The Pirates, who hired former Acadia University coach and one-time CFL quarterback John Huard as their first head coach, added further local, if aged, flavor by signing three veterans: quarterback John Fourcade (Mississippi), who played with B.C. in 1982 and later had a brief spell of success with the New Orleans Saints; Gill "The Thrill" Fenerty, another ex-Saint and former CFL Rookie of the Year; and former Miami Dolphin wide receiver Mark Duper (Northwest Louisiana). The Pirates finally came up with a more youthful signing of note when they grabbed linebacker Elfrid Payton (Grambling), the runner-up last season in Defensive Player of the Year honors, a three-year CFL veteran who had played out his option with Winnipeg.

Timm Rosenbach, Hamilton



WESTERN DIVISION

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(15-3) It will be interesting to see how the haughty Stampeders react after they had the rug pulled out from under them by the Eskimos in last fall's Western final. The Stamps were sure they were headed for a repeat as Grey Cup champions after running up an awesome 15-3 record during the regular season when they were defeated, 29-15, by Edmonton. Adding to the pain was the fact that they had to watch the Grey Cup party, which took place right in their own backyard, from the sidelines. What has to concern GM and head coach Wally Buono is that other teams, especially the Eskimos, closed the gap on the runaway Stampeders late in the season. Including the Western final, the Eskimos took three out of the four meetings between the teams after Labor Day. Still, heading into camp, the Stampeder lineup didn't look as if it would undergo major changes.

One alteration they'll have to make is in the defensive line, where Dutch-born Harald Haselbach (Washington) played out his option and was NFL-bound. Even if he doesn't get past an NFL team's training camp, he won't be back in Calgary until September 1. Defensive

Mark Duper, Shreveport



backs Karl Anthony (Southwest Missouri) and Ken Watson (Livingston) also became free agents and likely won't be back. However, Junior Thurman (Southern Cal), who missed much of last year with a ruptured Achilles' tendon, is expected back on one corner. Rookie Doug Craft (Southern) and Gregg Eaglin (Arkansas-Pine Bluff), who was picked up from Hamilton late in the year, should be able to fill the other hole.

Doug Flutie, who set another batch of CFL records, was named the CFL's outstanding

player for an unprecedented third straight year. He's back for a shot at four. His stats shouldn't suffer, considering he'll have Allen Pitts (Cal Fullerton), who missed a good chunk of '93 with torn knee ligaments, back at one slotback to go along with Canadian Dave Sapunjis (Western Ontario), the league's leading receiver last year with 103 catches for 1,484 yards. There will definitely be a new face at running back after veteran Keyvan Jenkins (UNLV) was released prior to training camp.

SACRAMENTO GOLD MINERS

(6-12) Fred Anderson is no longer the Lone Ranger. He carved a new frontier last year when he became the first owner of a CFL team based outside Canada. This time, however, he's got three new American partners, whom

Mike Oliphant, Sacramento



John E. Sokolowski/JOGO Inc.

he's counting on to provide added interest in the U.S., particularly in Sacramento, for three-down football. Saddled with a 22,000-seat stadium and a team that struggled with the Canadian game early in the season, the Miners averaged close to 17,000 fans per game in their first shot at the CFL. They'll have to do a lot better if Anderson is to stay in business.

In the offseason, Anderson added 3,000 end zone seats to Hornet Field and restructured ticket prices throughout the UC-Sacramento campus stadium in an effort to attract more fans. There was also a much more visible ticket-selling program. But strangely enough, there was little action on the football front. About the only news was the trade of John Wiley (Auburn) to Shreveport for future considerations, and that was an odd move because many considered Wiley the team's best defensive back.

Offensively, David Archer (Iowa State) found the CFL game to his liking as he filled the air with footballs and became one of just three quarterbacks ever to throw for more than 6,000 yards in a season. He attempted 701 passes, just two fewer than Flutie, completing 403 for 6,023 yards. And he did it despite taking awesome punishment behind a line that not only suffered from numerous injuries, but had difficulty dealing with smaller and quicker defensive linemen and linebackers. Rod Harris (Texas A&M) and Titus Dixon (Troy State), the main recipients of Archer's passes, both went over the 1,000-yard mark. Running back Mike Oliphant (Puget Sound) carried 116 times for 760 yards, but more importantly proved an effective receiver coming out of the backfield, which netted him 812 yards on 47 catches. His total of 1,572 yards from scrimmage was tops in the league.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(10-8) Now that the Lions have acquired pass master Kent Austin (Mississippi) to fling the football for them, they're sure to score a lot of points. The question is: Will they be able to score enough to overcome the number of points the defense will give up? Last year the Lions surrendered 583 points. Only the Toronto Argonauts gave up more. And like the Argos, the question of whether they've taken significant steps to shore up their defense remains unanswered.

In dealing for Austin, who set a score of Roughrider and CFL passing records in seven seasons on the prairie, the Lions admitted what was generally suspected. That is, that they weren't happy with Danny Barrett (Cincinnati) as their No. 1 quarterback. The 10-year CFL veteran arrived in Vancouver two seasons ago from Calgary after the Lions lost Doug Flutie to the Stampeders through free agency. The Stampeders have finished first in the West both years and won the Grey Cup in 1992. The Lions finished last in '92 and were a close fourth last season, but 10 points behind the first-place Stampeders. Austin will have a solid corps of receivers, which should be even better with the return of Swervin' Mervyn Fernandez, who left Vancouver in 1986 to cast his lot with the L.A. Raiders. Caught in a youth movement, Fernandez was dealt to the 49ers last year but retired during training camp. He's decided to pull on his helmet again with the Lions, with whom he had four straight 1,000-plus yards seasons.

While they strengthened the offense, the Lions saw their defense hit hard by the loss of outstanding linebacker O.J. Brigrance (Rice) to the Colts as well as two veterans, Tyrone Jones (Southern) and James West (Texas Southern). That left them with Zock Allen (Texas A&I), Arnie Williams (Southern Mississippi), Jeff Jackson (Auburn), and a host of rookies with which to rebuild their linebacking. In the secondary the futures of veteran cornerbacks Andre Francis (New Mexico State), 32, and Less Browne (Colorado State), 35, remain uncertain as the Lions look to the future.

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

(12-6) The first item Eskimo head coach Ron Lancaster checked when he picked up the newspaper each day this spring was the "transactions" list. It wasn't, however, to see which players had been signed or released by other CFL teams. No, Lancaster's gaze zeroed in under the baseball heading, specifically the Pittsburgh Pirates. The name he kept looking for was that of his quarterback Damon Allen, who was attempting to launch a career as a major league pitcher at the age of 30. Allen survived spring training, but was eventually shipped to the Pirates' Class-A team in Salem, Virginia, where he was being used as a long reliever. While he was hit hard in his debut as a pro pitcher, Allen's intention was to stick it out until the end of May before deciding if he'll return to football.

If Allen catches on as a baseball player, then the Eskimo quarterbacking chores will fall to Rickey Foggie (Minnesota) and Tom Muecke (Baylor). Also signed were Ricky Jones (Alabama State) and Chris Vargas (Nevada). Allen's value to the Eskimos was not so much as a passer (his 53.5 percent completion average was seventh in the league), but as a dual threat. His 920 yards rushing put him just five yards behind the league leader, Winnipeg's Mike Richardson. Foggie and Muecke do have the advantage of a top receiving unit in Jim Sandusky (San Diego State), Eddie Brown (Iowa State), Canadian J.P. Izquierdo, and Henry "Gizmo" Williams, the CFL's all-time punt-return leader. Aside from Allen, the Eskimos' biggest concern is the loss of offensive coordinator Adam Rita, who was hired as head coach by Ottawa. Rita was accorded much of the credit for sticking with and getting the most out of Allen last season after the quarterback got off to a slow start.

The defense, led by linebacker Willie Pless (Kansas), was the league's stingiest, giving up just 372 points. Every indication is that it won't be any more generous this year.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(11-7) It was a good news, bad news offseason for Saskatchewan. First the good news: The Roughriders, or, more accurately, the city of Regina, will host the Grey Cup in 1995—the first time the title game will be played there. That honor was bestowed on the city at the annual CFL board of governors meeting. The bad news is that some of the Riders' top stars of the recent past could wind up playing in that game wearing colors other than green.

The exodus began when quarterback Kent Austin (Mississippi), one of three passers ever to throw for more than 6,000 yards in a season, refused to return to the Roughies after seven years. He was eventually dealt to Ottawa, which in turn traded him to B.C. Then, one of Austin's favorite targets, Canadian slotback Jeff Fairholm (Arizona), who had caught passes for more than 1,000 yards in each of the past three seasons, jumped to the Argonauts as a free agent. He was followed by nose tackle Jearld Baylis (Southern Mississip-

pi), the CFL's Outstanding Defensive Player, who signed with the Colts as a free agent. The Riders even lost their motorcycle-riding head coach, Don Matthews, who zoomed off to join the Baltimore expansion franchise after two seasons in Regina. He was replaced by offensive coordinator Ray Jauch, winner of Coach of the Year honors during previous tenures with Edmonton and Winnipeg.

The trade that sent Austin packing brought Tom Burgess back to the Roughriders, the team he spent 1987-89 with before losing the quarterback battle to Austin. Burgess will have two of the CFL's top receivers in slotback Ray Elgaard (Utah), who is heading into his 12th season with the team, and eight-year veteran Donald Narcise (Texas Southern).

LAS VEGAS POSSE

The Posse got its man when the expansion club grabbed swift wide receiver Tamarick Vanover off the Florida State campus. While financial terms haven't been revealed, it is believed the 19-year-old will earn well over \$100,000 as he becomes the team's marquee player. Each CFL team is allowed to sign one player whose wages are not included in the \$2.5 million (Canadian) salary cap. Vanover was a key player on the Seminoles' national championship team, catching 87 passes and scoring 13 touchdowns in just two seasons. Vanover, however, is more than just a receiver.

Gill Fenerty, Shreveport

ing threat. In 1992, the 6-1, 200-pounder became the first college player to score touchdowns on his first two kickoff returns. He also showed he could run from scrimmage, scoring three touchdowns on reverses.

Whether the Posse has anyone to get the ball to Vanover was the question being asked as the team headed for training camp under coach Ron Meyer, the former New England Patriots field boss. The Posse's most experienced quarterback is the much-traveled Lee Saltz (Temple), who was with Hamilton last year but hampered by injuries. He also played briefly with Winnipeg and Saskatchewan as well as with the Detroit Lions. The other quarterback candidates include Darian Hagan (Colorado), Jason Verduzco (Illinois), and Jeff Loots (Southwest Minnesota), all of whom have spent minimum time with CFL teams.

The Posse lassoed a second major catch in linebacker Greg Battle (Arizona State), the two-time CFL Defensive Player of the Year, who had spent seven seasons with Winnipeg before playing out his option last year. He'll be the key to the defense. The Posse also signed running back Robert Mimbs (Kansas), who won back-to-back rushing titles with Winnipeg (1990-91) before being supplanted by Michael Richardson. A third ex-Bomber, wide receiver Larry Thompson (Solano Community College), whose career seemed to have ended when he was shot in the leg in a case of mistaken identity, was also signed. □



NFC STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)
Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
San Francisco	61	26	29	6	59	61	16	26	0	473
Dallas	41	20	18	3	40	41	30	37	0	376
Green Bay	35	14	19	2	35	35	31	37	1	340
Phoenix	37	12	21	4	37	37	21	28	2	326
New Orleans	33	10	18	5	33	33	28	35	1	317
Atlanta	34	4	28	2	34	34	26	27	0	316
Detroit	28	9	15	4	28	28	34	43	0	298
Philadelphia	35	7	23	5	31	35	16	23	2	293
N.Y. Giants	30	11	17	2	28	30	26	34	1	288
Minnesota	28	8	18	2	27	28	26	35	2	277
Tampa Bay	27	6	19	2	27	27	16	22	0	237
Chicago	22	10	7	5	21	22	27	36	0	234
Washington	26	11	11	4	24	26	16	28	1	230
L.A. Rams	25	8	16	1	23	25	16	23	0	221

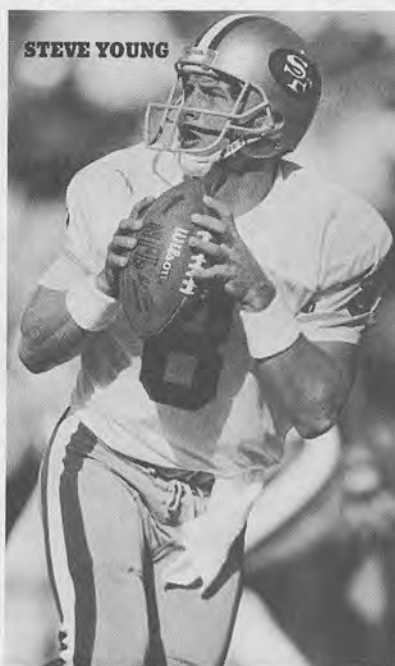
KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Hanson, Jason, Det.	28	28	34	43	130
Jacke, Chris, G.B.	35	35	31	37	128
Murray, Eddie, Dall.	38	38	28	33	122
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	33	33	28	35	117
Johnson, Norm, Atl.	34	34	26	27	112
Cofer, Mike, S.F.	69	61	16	26	107
Revez, Fuad, Minn.	27	28	26	35	105
Treadwell, David, Giants	28	29	25	31	103
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	21	22	27	36	102
Davis, Greg, Phoe.	37	37	21	28	100
Husted, Michael, T.B.	27	27	16	22	75
Lohmiller, Chip, Wash.	24	26	16	28	72
Zendejas, Tony, Rams	23	25	16	23	71
Ruzek, Roger, Phil.	13	16	8	10	37
Elliott, Lin, Dall.	2	3	2	4	8
Daluiso, Brad, Giants	0	0	1	3	3

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	16	1	15	0	96
Rison, Andre, Atl.	15	0	15	0	90
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	11	0	11	0	66
Watters, Ricky, S.F.	11	10	1	0	66
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	10	9	1	0	60
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	10	9	1	0	60
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	10	0	10	0	60
Carter, Cris, Minn.	9	0	9	0	54
Moore, Ron, Phoe.	9	9	0	0	54
Bettis, Jerome, Rams	7	7	0	0	42
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	7	0	7	0	42
Logan, Marc, S.F.	7	7	0	0	42
Pritchard, Mike, Atl.	7	0	7	0	42
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.	7	0	7	0	42
Bavaro, Mark, Phil.	6	0	6	0	36
Early, Quinn, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Moore, Herman, Del.	6	0	6	0	36

Williams, Kevin, Dall.	6	2	2	2	36
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	5	0	5	0	30
Cross, Howard, Giants	5	0	5	0	30
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	5	5	0	0	30
Harper, Alvin, Dall.	5	0	5	0	30
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Taylor, John, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
Allen, Eric, Phil.	4	0	0	4	24
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	4	4	0	0	24



Anderson, Willie, Rams	4	0	4	0	24
Clark, Gary, Phoe.	4	0	4	0	24
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	4	3	1	0	24
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Drayton, Troy, Rams	4	0	4	0	24
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	4	4	0	0	24
Harris, Jackie, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	4	0	4	0	24
Hill, Randal, Phoe.	4	0	4	0	24
Jackson, Mark, Giants	4	0	4	0	24
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	4	3	1	0	24
Moore, Derrick, Det.	4	3	1	0	24
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	4	0	4	0	24
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	4	1	3	0	24
Workman, Vince, T.B.	4	2	2	0	24
Brooks, Reggie, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18
Brown, Derek, N.O.	3	2	1	0	18
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	3	2	1	0	18
Calloway, Chris, Giants	3	0	3	0	18
Centers, Larry, Phoe.	3	0	3	0	18
Clayton, Mark, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Graham, Scottie, Minn.	3	3	0	0	18
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil.	3	3	0	0	18
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	3	2	1	0	18
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	3	0	0	3	18
Jones, Brent, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18
Lassic, Derrick, Dall.	3	3	0	0	18
Lee, Amp, S.F.	3	1	2	0	18
Martin, Eric, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18
McGee, Tim, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18
Muster, Brad, N.O.	3	3	0	0	18
Obee, Terry, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18
Pegram, Erric, Atl.	3	3	0	0	18
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	3	3	0	0	18
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18
Sanders, Barry, Det.	3	3	0	0	18
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	3	3	0	0	18
Tillman, Lewis, Giants	3	3	0	0	18
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe.	2	1	0	1	12
Baker, Myron, Chi.	2	0	0	2	12
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	2	1	0	1	12
Clay, Willie, Det.	2	0	0	2	12
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall.	2	2	0	0	12
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Craig, Roger, Minn.	2	1	1	0	12
Davis, Eric, S.F.	2	0	0	2	12
Ellard, Henry, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	2	1	1	0	12
Green, Willie, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Hallock, Ty, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Holman, Rodney, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Jones, Ernie, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Lynch, Eric, Det.	2	2	0	0	12
McCaffrey, Ed, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Middleton, Ron, Wash.	2	0	2	0	12
Monk, Art, Wash.	2	0	2	0	12
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	2	1	1	0	12
Perriman, Brett, Det.	2	0	2	0	12
Sherman, Heath, Phil.	2	2	0	0	12
Sherrard, Mike, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, Irv, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, Robert, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Thomas, Lamar, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Williams, Aeneas, Phoe.	2	0	0	2	12
Word, Barry, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12

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Worley, Tim, Chi.	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Steve, S.F.	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Mike, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Bailey, Victor, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Beach, Sanjay, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Blount, Eric, Phoe.	1	1	0	0	6
Bono, Steve, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Boykin, Deral, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Broussard, Steven, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Butler, LeRoy, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Byner, Earnest, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Carrier, Mark, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Carter, Pat, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Clark, Vinnie, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6



EDGAR
BENNETT

Collins, Mark, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Dowdell, Marcus, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe.	1	0	1	0	6
Evans, Byron, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Favre, Brett, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Galbraith, Scott, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Gannon, Rich, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Gouveia, Kurt, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Gray, Mel, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Darrell, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Hall, Ron, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Hanks, Merton, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Hearst, Garrison, Phoe.	1	1	0	0	6
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	1	0	1	0	6
Jamison, George, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, A.J., Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Dante, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6

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NFCstatistics

PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 353, Don Majkowski, Green Bay (1989)

Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	SACK	YDS	LOST	RATING
Young, Steve, S.F.	462	314	68.0	4023	8.71	29	6.3	180	16	3.5	31	160	101.5			
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	392	271	69.1	3100	7.91	15	3.8	180	6	1.5	26	153	99.0			
Simms, Phil, Giants	400	247	61.8	3038	7.60	15	3.8	62	9	2.3	37	217	88.3			
Brister, Bobby, Phil.	309	181	58.6	1905	6.17	14	4.5	58	5	1.6	19	148	84.9			
Hebert, Bobby, Atl.	430	263	61.2	2978	6.93	24	5.6	198	17	4.0	29	190	84.0			
Beuerlein, Steve, Phoe.	418	258	61.7	3164	7.57	18	4.3	165	17	4.1	29	206	82.5			
McMahon, Jim, Minn.	331	200	60.4	1968	5.95	9	2.7	58	8	2.4	23	104	76.2			
Favre, Brett, G.B.	522	318	60.9	3303	6.33	19	3.6	166	24	4.6	30	199	72.2			
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	325	200	61.5	2002	6.16	7	2.2	48	11	3.4	43	210	72.1			
Wilson, Wade, N.O.	388	221	57.0	2457	6.33	12	3.1	142	15	3.9	37	225	70.1			
Peete, Rodney, Del.	252	157	62.3	1670	6.63	6	2.4	193	14	5.6	34	174	66.4			
Erickson, Craig, T.B.	457	233	51.0	3054	6.68	18	3.9	167	21	4.6	35	236	66.4			
Everett, Jim, Rams	274	135	49.3	1652	6.03	8	2.9	160	12	4.4	18	125	59.7			
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	319	166	52.0	1514	4.75	4	1.3	43	10	3.1	16	87	56.3			

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Kramer, Erik, Del.	138	87	63.0	1002	7.26	8	5.8	48	3	2.2	5	35	95.1			
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	110	76	69.1	850	7.73	5	4.5	180	5	4.5	7	33	88.1			
Buck, Mike, N.O.	54	32	59.3	448	8.30	4	7.4	163	3	5.6	3	17	87.6			
Salisbury, Sean, Minn.	195	115	59.0	1413	7.25	9	4.6	55	6	3.1	12	77	84.0			
Kosar, Bernie, Cle.-Dall.	201	115	57.2	1217	6.05	8	4.0	86	3	1.5	23	132	82.0			
Rubley, T.J., Rams	189	108	57.1	1338	7.08	8	4.2	54	6	3.2	13	106	80.1			
Bono, Steve, S.F.	61	39	63.9	416	6.82	0	0.0	33	1	1.6	4	18	76.9			
Conklin, Cary, Wash.	87	46	52.9	496	5.70	4	4.6	134	3	3.4	8	45	70.9			
O'Brien, Ken, Phil.	137	71	51.8	708	5.17	4	2.9	41	3	2.2	15	116	67.4			
Chandler, Chris, Phoe.	103	52	50.5	471	4.57	3	2.9	127	2	1.9	4	25	64.8			
Walsh, Steve, N.O.	38	20	52.6	271	7.13	2	5.3	154	3	7.9	0	0	60.3			
Gannon, Rich, Wash.	125	74	59.2	704	5.63	3	2.4	54	7	5.6	16	87	59.6			
Tolliver, Billy Joe, Atl.	76	39	51.3	464	6.11	3	3.9	142	5	6.6	3	15	56.0			
Garrett, Jason, Dall.	19	9	47.4	61	3.21	0	0.0	16	0	0.0	1	6	54.9			
Ware, Andre, Del.	45	20	44.4	271	6.02	1	2.2	47	2	4.4	7	20	53.1			
Miller, Chris, Atl.	66	32	48.5	345	5.23	1	1.5	132	3	4.5	8	62	50.4			
Graham, Kent, Giants	22	8	36.4	79	3.59	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	3	28	47.3			
Weldon, Casey, T.B.	11	6	54.5	55	5.00	0	0.0	20	1	9.1	1	11	30.5			
Willis, Peter Tom, Chi.	60	30	50.0	268	4.47	0	0.0	29	5	8.3	5	20	27.6			

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP	RET	RET	YDS	IN 20	NET	AVG
Arnold, Jim, Del.	72	3207	68	44.5	9	0	45	377	15	36.8			
Roby, Reggie, Wash.	78	3447	60	44.2	10	0	31	343	25	37.2			
Camarillo, Rich, Phoe.	73	3189	61	43.7	8	0	30	267	23	37.8			
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O.	77	3356	58	43.6	6	0	36	348	26	37.5			
Alexander, Harold, Atl.	72	3114	75	43.3	3	0	41	350	21	37.6			
Newsome, Harry, Minn.	90	3862	64	42.9	6	0	46	560	25	35.4			
Wagner, Bryan, G.B.	74	3174	60	42.9	7	0	38	350	19	36.3			
Landeta, Sean, Giants-Rams	75	3215	66	42.9	10	1	44	444	18	33.8			
Horan, Mike, Giants	44	1882	60	42.8	1	0	25	107	13	39.9			
Jett, John, Dall.	56	2342	59	41.8	3	0	32	169	22	37.7			
Wilmsmeyer, Klaus, S.F.	42	1718	61	40.9	5	0	15	171	11	34.5			
Stryzinski, Dan, T.B.	93	3772	57	40.6	3	1	53	394	24	35.3			
Feagles, Jeff, Phil.	83	3323	60	40.0	4	0	35	311	31	35.3			
Gardocki, Chris, Chi.	80	3080	58	38.5	2	0	22	115	28	36.6			

NON-QUALIFIERS

McJulien, Paul, Rams	21	795	56	37.9	3	0	10	143	5	28.2			
Bracken, Don, Rams	17	651	51	38.3	0	0	8	86	3	33.2			
Goodburn, Kelly, Wash.	5	197	49	39.4	0	0	3	0	3	39.4			

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

Jordan, Steve, Minn.	1	0	1	0	6	McMillian, Audray, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Joseph, James, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6	McNeal, Travis, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	1	0	1	0	6	Meggett, David, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Lincoln, Jeremy, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6	Mills, Sam, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Lynch, Lorenzo, Phoe.	1	0	0	1	6	Mims, David, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Mack, Milton, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6	Moore, Dave, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
McAfee, Fred, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6	Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
McDowell, Anthony, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6	Ned, Derrick, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
McGriggs, Lamar, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6	Newman, Pat, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
McGruder, Michael, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6	Peete, Rodney, Del.	1	1	0	0	6

Rasheed, Kenyon, <i>Giants</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Reeves, Walter, <i>Phoe.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Rolle, Butch, <i>Phoe.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Royster, Mazio, <i>T.B.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Sanders, Deion, <i>Atl.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Seals, Ray, <i>T.B.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Singleton, Nate, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Small, Torrance, <i>N.O.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Kevin, <i>Dall.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Tony, <i>Atl.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Stephens, John, <i>G.B.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Tamm, Ralph, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Tice, Mike, <i>Minn.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Turner, Floyd, <i>N.O.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Waddle, Tom, <i>Chi.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Warren, Frank, <i>N.O.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Wetnight, Ryan, <i>Chi.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Jamie, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Flores, Mike, <i>Phil.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Hamilton, Keith, <i>Giants</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Stowers, Tommie, <i>N.O.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Swann, Eric, <i>Phoe.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Thomas, Henry, <i>Minn.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2

*Safety

Team safeties: Green Bay, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Washington

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)

Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)

TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
N.Y. Giants	560	2210	3.9	58	11
Dallas	490	2161	4.4	62	20
San Francisco	463	2133	4.6	150	26
L.A. Rams	449	2014	4.5	171	8
Detroit	456	1944	4.3	48	9
Phoenix	452	1809	4.0	57	12
New Orleans	414	1766	4.3	174	10
Philadelphia	456	1761	3.9	35	7
Washington	396	1728	4.4	185	11
Chicago	477	1677	3.5	45	10
Minnesota	447	1624	3.6	31	8
Green Bay	448	1619	3.6	160	14
Atlanta	395	1590	4.0	29	4
Tampa Bay	402	1290	3.2	22	6

1 or more yards

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith, Emmitt, <i>Dall.</i>	283	1486	5.3	162	9
Bettis, Jerome, <i>Rams</i>	294	1429	4.9	171	7
Pegram, Eric, <i>Atl.</i>	292	1185	4.1	29	3
Sanders, Barry, <i>Det.</i>	243	1115	4.6	42	3
Hampton, Rodney, <i>Giants</i>	292	1077	3.7	20	5
Brooks, Reggie, <i>Wash.</i>	223	1063	4.8	185	3
Moore, Ron, <i>Phoe.</i>	263	1018	3.9	20	9
Watters, Ricky, <i>S.F.</i>	208	950	4.6	39	10
Walker, Herschel, <i>Phil.</i>	174	746	4.3	35	1
Brown, Derek, <i>N.O.</i>	180	705	3.9	60	2
Cobb, Reggie, <i>T.B.</i>	221	658	3.0	16	3
Thompson, Darrell, <i>G.B.</i>	169	654	3.9	160	3
Anderson, Neal, <i>Chi.</i>	202	646	3.2	45	4
Tillman, Lewis, <i>Giants</i>	121	585	4.8	58	3
Bennett, Edgar, <i>G.B.</i>	159	550	3.5	19	9
Graham, Scottie, <i>Minn.</i>	118	488	4.1	31	3
Worley, Tim, <i>Pit.-Chi.</i>	120	470	3.9	28	2
Word, Barry, <i>Minn.</i>	142	458	3.2	14	2
Young, Steve, <i>S.F.</i>	69	407	5.9	35	2
Sherman, Heath, <i>Phil.</i>	115	406	3.5	19	2
Moore, Derrick, <i>Det.</i>	88	405	4.6	48	3
Smith, Robert, <i>Minn.</i>	82	399	4.9	126	2
Meggett, David, <i>Giants</i>	69	329	4.8	23	0
Hebron, Vaughn, <i>Phil.</i>	84	297	3.5	33	3
Gary, Cleveland, <i>Rams</i>	79	293	3.7	15	1
Workman, Vince, <i>T.B.</i>	78	284	3.6	21	2
Logan, Marc, <i>S.F.</i>	58	280	4.8	45	7
Harbaugh, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	60	277	4.6	25	4
Lassic, Derrick, <i>Dall.</i>	75	269	3.6	15	3
Hearst, Garrison, <i>Phoe.</i>	76	264	3.5	57	1
Bailey, Johnny, <i>Phoe.</i>	49	253	5.2	31	1
Mitchell, Brian, <i>Wash.</i>	63	246	3.9	129	3
Lee, Amp, <i>S.F.</i>	72	230	3.2	13	1
Wilson, Wade, <i>N.O.</i>	31	230	7.4	44	0
Favre, Brett, <i>G.B.</i>	58	216	3.7	27	1
Muster, Brad, <i>N.O.</i>	64	214	3.3	18	3
Lynch, Eric, <i>Det.</i>	53	207	3.9	15	2
Broussard, Steven, <i>Atl.</i>	39	206	5.3	26	1

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NFC Statistics

Heyward, Craig, Chi.	68	206	3.0	11	0
Erwins, Ricky, Wash.	50	201	4.0	18	0
Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	21	175	8.3	174	1
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	50	165	3.3	16	2
Peele, Rodney, Det.	45	165	3.7	28	1
McAtee, Fred, N.O.	51	160	3.1	27	1
Centers, Larry, Phoe.	25	152	6.1	33	0
Joseph, James, Phil.	39	140	3.6	12	0
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall.	34	132	3.9	16	2
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	33	128	3.9	13	2
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	32	125	3.9	20	0
Craig, Roger, Minn.	38	119	3.1	11	1
Royster, Mazio, T.B.	33	115	3.5	19	1
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	18	110	6.1	26	1
Byner, Earnest, Wash.	23	105	4.6	16	1
Rubley, T.J., Rams	29	102	3.5	13	0
Erickson, Craig, T.B.	26	96	3.7	15	0
McMahon, Jim, Minn.	33	96	2.9	16	0
Dickerson, Eric, Atl.	26	91	3.5	10	0
Gannon, Rich, Wash.	21	88	4.2	12	1
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	19	80	4.2	19	3
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	24	74	3.1	11	3
Lester, Tim, Rams	11	74	6.7	26	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	10	72	7.2	150	1
Ned, Derrick, N.O.	9	71	7.9	135	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	3	69	23.0	143	1
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	28	56	2.0	13	0
Hebert, Bobby, Atl.	24	49	2.0	14	0
Tolliver, Billy Joe, Atl.	7	48	6.9	24	0
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.	8	47	5.9	17	0
Beuerlein, Steve, Phoe.	22	45	2.0	20	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	5	44	8.8	18	0
Rasheed, Kenyon, Giants	9	42	4.7	123	1
Brister, Bubby, Phil.	20	39	2.0	13	0
Everett, Jim, Rams	19	38	2.0	14	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	3	34	11.3	22	0
Early, Quinn, N.O.	2	32	16.0	26	0
Evans, Chuck, Minn.	14	32	2.3	5	0
Simms, Phil, Giants	28	31	1.1	9	0
Gainer, Derrick, Dall.	9	29	3.2	8	0
Green, Robert, Chi.	15	29	1.9	10	0
Harris, Rudy, T.B.	7	29	4.1	12	0
Lang, David, Rams	9	29	3.2	28	0
Blount, Eric, Phoe.	5	28	5.6	7	1
Kosar, Bernie, Cle.-Dall.	23	26	1.1	10	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	7	26	3.7	12	2
Jackson, Mark, Giants	3	25	8.3	20	0
Ware, Andre, Det.	7	23	3.3	8	0
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	7	19	2.7	9	0
Christian, Bob, Chi.	8	19	2.4	12	0
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Ellard, Henry, Rams	2	18	9.0	15	0
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	3	17	5.7	21	0
Howard, Desmond, Wash.	2	17	8.5	9	0
O'Brien, Ken, Phil.	4	17	4.3	11	0
Taylor, John, S.F.	2	17	8.5	12	0
Walker, Adam, S.F.	5	17	3.4	11	0
Perriman, Brett, Det.	4	16	4.0	16	0
Bono, Steve, S.F.	12	14	1.2	10	1
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	3	14	4.7	6	0
Agee, Tommie, Dall.	6	13	2.2	6	0
Lewis, Darren, Chi.	7	13	1.9	3	0
Miller, Chris, Atl.	2	11	5.5	6	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	2	10	5.0	8	0
White, Russell, Rams	2	10	5.0	5	0
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	4	8	2.0	5	0
Drayton, Troy, Rams	1	7	7.0	7	0
Matthews, Aubrey, Det.	2	7	3.5	9	0
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	2	7	3.5	4	0
Feagles, Jeff, Phil.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	2	6	3.0	9	0
McDowell, Anthony, T.B.	2	6	3.0	3	0
Willis, Peter Tom, Chi.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B.	2	5	2.5	4	0
Kramer, Erik, Det.	10	5	0.5	4	0
Jones, Ernie, Rams	1	4	4.0	4	0
Pritchard, Mike, Atl.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	9	4	0.4	5	3
Mims, David, Atl.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Wilson, Marcus, G.B.	6	3	0.5	5	0
Chandler, Chris, Phoe.	3	2	0.7	1	0
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	1	2	2.0	12	1
Richards, Curvin, Det.	4	1	0.3	1	0

1 Touchdown

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PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 112, Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay (1993)

Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)

TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

2 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	112	1274	11.4	54	11
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	98	1503	15.3	180	15
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	88	1330	15.1	161	7
Rison, Andre, Atl.	86	1242	14.4	153	15
Carter, Cris, Minn.	86	1071	12.5	58	9
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	75	610	8.1	55	3
Pritchard, Mike, Atl.	74	736	9.9	34	7
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	72	778	10.8	198	4
Jones, Brent, S.F.	68	735	10.8	29	3
Martin, Eric, N.O.	66	950	14.4	154	3
Centers, Larry, Phoe.	66	603	9.1	29	3
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.	65	877	13.5	151	7
Clark, Gary, Phoe.	63	818	13.0	55	4
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	62	933	15.0	67	5
Ellard, Henry, Rams	61	945	15.5	54	2
Moore, Herman, Det.	61	935	15.3	193	6
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	60	775	12.9	39	5
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	60	725	12.1	180	10
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	59	457	7.7	139	1
Jackson, Mark, Giants	58	708	12.2	140	4
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	58	638	11.0	50	4
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	57	414	7.3	86	1
Taylor, John, S.F.	56	940	16.8	176	5
Jordan, Steve, Minn.	56	542	9.7	53	1
Workman, Vince, T.B.	54	411	7.6	142	2
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	50	372	7.4	20	1
Perriman, Brett, Del.	49	496	10.1	34	2
Early, Quinn, N.O.	45	670	14.9	163	6
Waddle, Tom, Chi.	44	552	12.5	38	1
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	44	445	10.1	30	1
Bavaro, Mark, Phil.	43	481	11.2	27	6
Harris, Jackie, G.B.	42	604	14.4	166	4
Bailey, Victor, Phil.	41	545	13.3	58	1
Monk, Art, Wash.	41	398	9.7	29	2
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	40	296	7.4	34	1
McGee, Tim, Wash.	39	500	12.8	54	3
Meggett, David, Giants	38	319	8.4	50	0
Anderson, Willie, Rams	37	552	14.9	156	4
Logan, Marc, S.F.	37	348	9.4	24	0
Harper, Alvin, Dall.	36	777	21.6	180	5
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	36	289	8.0	160	1
Sanders, Barry, Det.	36	205	5.7	17	0
Hill, Randal, Phoe.	35	199	14.8	158	4
Calloway, Chris, Giants	35	513	14.7	47	3
Hill, Drew, Atl.	34	384	11.3	30	0
Pegram, Eric, Atl.	33	302	9.2	30	0
Clayton, Mark, G.B.	32	331	10.3	32	3
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe.	32	243	7.6	30	0
Walters, Ricky, S.F.	31	326	10.5	148	1
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	31	160	5.2	35	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	30	633	21.1	167	4
Joseph, James, Phil.	29	291	10.0	48	1
Green, Willie, Det.	28	462	16.5	47	2
McCaffrey, Ed, Giants	27	335	12.4	31	2
Drayton, Troy, Rams	27	319	11.8	27	4
Byner, Earnest, Wash.	27	194	7.2	20	0
Obee, Terry, Chi.	26	351	13.5	48	3
Bettis, Jerome, Rams	26	244	9.4	28	0
West, Ed, G.B.	25	253	10.1	24	0
Holman, Rodney, Det.	25	244	9.8	128	2
Sherrard, Mike, S.F.	24	433	18.0	155	2
Middleton, Ron, Wash.	24	154	6.4	18	2
Smith, Robert, Minn.	24	111	4.6	12	0
Howard, Desmond, Wash.	23	286	12.4	27	0
Hall, Ron, T.B.	23	268	11.7	137	1
Muster, Brad, N.O.	23	195	8.5	31	0
Cross, Howard, Giants	21	272	13.0	32	5
Brooks, Reggie, Wash.	21	186	8.9	43	0
Brown, Derek, N.O.	21	170	8.1	19	1
Moore, Derrick, Det.	21	169	8.0	20	1
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	20	180	9.0	25	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	20	157	7.9	18	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	20	151	7.6	33	2
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	19	231	12.2	138	2
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	19	212	11.2	37	1
Craig, Roger, Minn.	19	169	8.9	31	1
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	18	210	11.7	62	0

Lester, Tim, Rams	18	154	8.6	21	0
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	18	129	7.2	34	0
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	17	170	10.0	21	0
Smith, Irv, N.O.	16	180	11.3	23	2
Small, Torrance, N.O.	16	164	10.3	17	1
Christian, Bob, Chi.	16	160	10.0	36	0
Heyward, Craig, Chi.	16	132	8.3	20	0
Williams, Jamie, S.F.	16	132	8.3	15	1
Ervin, Ricky, Wash.	16	123	7.7	20	0
Lee, Amp, S.F.	16	115	7.2	22	2
Wycheck, Frank, Wash.	16	113	7.1	20	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	15	225	15.0	24	0
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	15	203	13.5	24	0
Tennell, Derek, Minn.	15	122	8.1	17	0
Young, Mike, Phil.	14	186	13.3	149	2
Lofton, James, Rams-Phil.	14	183	13.1	32	0
Carter, Pat, Rams	14	166	11.9	38	1
Jennings, Keith, Chi.	14	150	10.7	29	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe.	13	326	25.1	165	1
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	13	98	7.5	15	1
Lynch, Eric, Det.	13	82	6.3	11	0
Green, Robert, Chi.	13	63	4.8	9	0
Pierce, Aaron, Giants	12	212	17.7	54	0
Turner, Floyd, N.O.	12	163	13.6	52	1
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	12	132	11.0	17	0
Mims, David, Atl.	12	107	8.9	19	1
Sherman, Heath, Phil.	12	78	6.5	21	0
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.	11	171	15.5	27	1
Matthews, Aubrey, Del.	11	171	15.5	40	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	11	89	8.1	28	1
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil.	11	82	7.5	12	0
Worley, Tim, Pit-Chi.	11	62	5.6	15	0
Gedney, Chris, N.O.	10	98	9.8	24	0
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	10	86	8.6	17	0
Johnson, Maurice, Phil.	10	81	8.1	17	0
Rolle, Butch, Phoe.	10	67	6.7	22	1
Word, Barry, Minn.	9	105	11.7	27	0
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi.	9	93	10.3	125	1
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B.	9	86	9.6	29	1
Reeves, Walter, Phoe.	9	67	7.4	18	1
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	9	61	6.8	19	1
Ned, Derrick, N.O.	9	54	6.0	14	0
Lassic, Derrick, Dall.	9	37	4.1	9	0
Thomas, Lamar, T.B.	8	186	23.3	162	2
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	8	137	17.1	135	1
Singleton, Nate, S.F.	8	126	15.8	33	1
Newman, Pat, N.O.	8	121	15.1	32	1
Hallock, Ty, Det.	8	88	11.0	24	2
McNeal, Travis, Rams	8	75	9.4	122	1
Lyons, Mitch, Atl.	8	63	7.9	14	0
McDowell, Anthony, T.B.	8	26	3.3	9	1
Brown, Derek, Giants	7	56	8.0	14	0
Campbell, Jeff, Det.	7	55	7.9	12	0
Graham, Scottie, Minn.	7	46	6.6	11	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	6	106	17.7	170	1
Dickerson, Eric, Atl.	6	58	9.7	30	0
Whitaker, Danta, Chi.	6	53	8.8	18	0
Dowdell, Marcus, N.O.	6	46	7.7	111	1
Tice, Mike, Minn.	6	39	6.5	21	1
Gainer, Derrick, Dall.	6	37	6.2	8	0
Hearst, Garrison, Phoe.	6	18	3.0	9	0
Reed, Jake, Minn.	5	65	13.0	18	0
Claiborne, Robert, T.B.	5	61	12.2	16	0
Beach, Sanjay, S.F.	5	59	11.8	120	1
Jones, Ernie, Rams	5	56	11.2	121	2
Blount, Eric, Phoe.	5	36	7.2	9	0
Stephens, John, G.B.	5	31	6.2	10	0
Royster, Mazio, T.B.	5	18	3.6	10	0
Harris, Rudy, T.B.	4	48	12.0	25	0
Moore, Dave, T.B.	4	47	11.8	119	1
Lang, David, Rams	4	45	11.3	21	0
Truitt, Olanda, Minn.	4	40	10.0	13	0
Evans, Chuck, Minn.	4	39	9.8	21	0
Lewis, Darren, Chi.	4	26	6.5	18	0
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall.	4	24	6.0	10	0
Turner, Odessa, S.F.	3	64	21.3	32	0
Ware, Derek, Phoe.	3	45	15.0	27	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	3	40	13.3	14	0
Moore, Ron, Phoe.	3	16	5.3	6	0
Banks, Fred, Mia-Chi.	2	45	22.5	26	0
Snyder, Jeff, Phil.	2	42	21.0	31	0
LaChapelle, Sean, Rams	2	23	11.5	14	0
Lewis, Ron, G.B.	2	21	10.5	17	0
Johnson, Jimmy, Det.	2	18	9.0	9	0
Wilson, Marcus, G.B.	2	18	9.0	11	0



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NFCstatistics

Clifton, Gregory, Wash.	2	15	7.5	10	0
Chimura, Mark, G.B.	2	13	6.5	7	0
Harris, Corey, G.B.	2	11	5.5	6	0
Young, Steve, S.F.	2	2	1.0	6	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Yards: 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949)

Longest return: 102 yards,

Bob Smith, Detroit (1949)

Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TDs: 4, Eric Allen, Philadelphia (1993)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	7	91	13.0	0	
Allen, Eric, Phil.	6	201	33.5	194	4
Butler, LeRoy, G.B.	6	131	21.8	39	0
Smith, Kevin, Dall.	6	56	9.3	132	1
Carter, Tom, Wash.	6	54	9.0	29	0
McGruder, Michael, S.F.	5	89	17.8	37	1
Glenn, Vencie, Minn.	5	49	9.8	23	0
Carrier, Mark, Chi.	4	94	23.5	134	1
Collins, Mark, Giants	4	77	19.3	150	1
Jones, Dante, Chi.	4	52	13.0	22	0
Davis, Eric, S.F.	4	45	11.3	141	1
McMillian, Audray, Minn.	4	45	11.3	122	1
Jackson, Greg, Giants	4	32	8.0	29	0
Miano, Rich, Phil.	4	26	6.5	16	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	4	10	2.5	6	0
Del Rio, Jack, Minn.	4	3	0.8	3	0
Lincoln, Jeremy, Chi.	3	109	36.3	180	1
Hanks, Merton, S.F.	3	104	34.7	167	1
Atkins, Gene, N.O.	3	59	19.7	37	0
King, Joe, T.B.	3	29	9.7	28	0
McDonald, Tim, S.F.	3	23	7.7	21	0
Lee, Carl, Minn.	3	20	6.7	19	0
Swilling, Pat, Det.	3	16	5.3	14	0
Lynch, Lorenzo, Phoe.	3	13	4.3	13	0
Walker, Darnell, Atl.	3	7	2.3	7	0
Griffin, Don, S.F.	3	6	2.0	3	0
Williams, Aeneas, Phoe.	2	87	43.5	146	1
Clark, Vinnie, Atl.	2	59	29.5	38	0
Jamison, George, Det.	2	48	24.0	135	1
Bailey, Robert, Rams	2	41	20.5	41	0
Holland, Johnny, G.B.	2	41	20.5	30	0
Thomas, William, Phil.	2	39	19.5	21	0
Guyton, Myron, Giants	2	34	17.0	19	0
Taylor, Keith, N.O.	2	32	16.0	30	0
Buckley, Terrell, G.B.	2	31	15.5	31	0
Crockett, Ray, Det.	2	31	15.5	31	0
Buck, Vince, N.O.	2	28	14.0	28	0
Colon, Harry, Det.	2	28	14.0	27	0
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	2	27	13.5	14	0
Scott, Todd, Ind.	2	26	13.0	26	0
Bates, Bill, Dall.	2	25	12.5	22	0
Everett, Thomas, Dall.	2	25	12.5	17	0
McMillian, Mark, Phil.	2	25	12.5	17	0
Booty, John, Phoe.	2	24	12.0	19	0
Rolling, Henry, Rams	2	21	10.5	12	0
Simmons, Wayne, G.B.	2	21	10.5	19	0
McNeil, Ryan, Det.	2	19	9.5	16	0
Miller, Corey, Giants	2	18	9.0	11	0
Woolford, Donnell, Chi.	2	18	9.0	18	0
Raymond, Corey, Giants	2	11	5.5	11	0
McKyer, Tim, Det.	2	10	5.0	10	0
Jenkins, Carlos, Minn.	2	7	3.5	4	0
Blaylock, Anthony, Chi.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Terrell, Pat, Rams	2	1	0.5	1	0
Lyght, Todd, Rams	2	0	0.0	0	0
Spielman, Chris, Det.	2	-2	-1.0	0	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Gill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

Charlie West, Minnesota (1968)

Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	37	21	503	13.6	183	2
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	34	20	411	12.1	172	1
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	36	14	381	10.6	164	2
Meggett, David, Giants	32	20	331	10.3	175	1
Gray, Mel, Del.	23	14	197	8.6	35	0

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NFCstatistics

Sikahema, Vai, Phil	33	20	275	8.3	25	0
Obee, Terry, Chi	35	20	289	8.3	28	0
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe	35	5	282	8.1	158	1
Smith, Tony, Atl	32	17	255	8.0	51	0
Guliford, Eric, Minn	29	15	212	7.3	50	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash	29	7	193	6.7	48	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Prior, Mike, G.B.	17	3	194	11.4	24	0
Turner, Vernon, Det	17	4	152	8.9	53	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	17	1	113	6.6	15	0
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	16	4	135	8.4	35	0
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	15	8	166	11.1	35	0
Buckley, Terrell, G.B.	11	5	76	6.9	39	0
Blount, Eric, Phoe	9	3	90	10.0	25	0
Parker, Anthony, Minn	9	6	64	7.1	20	0
Buchanan, Richard, Rams	8	1	41	5.1	12	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	7	4	32	4.6	8	0
Claiborne, Robert, T.B.	6	6	32	5.3	13	0
Howard, Desmond, Wash	4	0	25	6.3	13	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe	3	3	12	4.0	11	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl	2	1	21	10.5	16	0
Ellard, Henry, Rams	2	8	18	9.0	13	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981)
Yards: 1,345, Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985)
Longest: 106 yards,

Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)

Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)

4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	23	611	26.6	195	1
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	30	753	25.1	199	1
Smith, Tony, Atl	38	948	24.9	197	1
Gray, Mel, Det	28	688	24.6	195	1
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe	31	699	22.5	48	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall	31	689	22.2	49	0
Ismail, Qadry, Minn	42	902	21.5	47	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi	21	450	21.4	55	0
McAfee, Fred, N.O.	28	580	20.7	55	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash	33	678	20.5	68	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	125	494	19.8	60	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	123	454	19.7	42	0
Sikahema, Vai, Phil	30	579	19.3	35	0
Howard, Desmond, Wash	21	405	19.3	33	0
Turner, Vernon, Det.-T.B.	21	391	18.6	46	0
Meggett, David, Giants	124	403	16.8	35	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Harris, Corey, G.B.	16	482	30.1	65	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.-Det	15	232	15.5	24	0
Boykin, Derral, Rams	13	216	16.6	29	0
Walker, Herschel, Phil	11	184	16.7	30	0
Lee, Amp, S.F.	10	160	16.0	28	0
Wilson, Marcus, G.B.	9	197	21.9	37	0
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	9	171	19.0	42	0
Obee, Terry, Chi	9	159	17.7	34	0
Snyder, Jeff, Phil	9	158	17.6	36	0
Green, Robert, Chi	9	141	15.7	30	0
Griffith, Howard, Rams	8	169	21.1	29	0
Blount, Eric, Phoe	8	163	20.4	27	0
Price, Mitchell, Rams	8	144	18.0	23	0
White, Russell, Rams	8	122	15.3	35	0
Royster, Mazio, T.B.	8	102	12.8	26	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl	7	169	24.1	31	0
Worley, Tim, Pit.-Chi	6	121	20.2	26	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	6	96	16.0	22	0
Calloway, Chris, Giants	6	89	14.8	21	0
Guliford, Eric, Minn	5	101	20.2	29	0
Israel, Steve, Rams	5	92	18.4	23	0
Workman, Vince, T.B.	5	67	13.4	19	0
Pegram, Eric, Atl	4	63	15.8	28	0
Claiborne, Robert, T.B.	4	57	14.3	33	0
Brown, Derek, N.O.	3	58	19.3	23	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe	3	51	17.0	20	0
Walker, Adam, S.F.	3	51	17.0	30	0
Smith, Robert, Minn	3	41	13.7	16	0
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil	3	35	11.7	18	0
Montgomery, Alton, Atl	2	53	26.5	33	0
Phillips, Jason, Atl	2	38	19.0	29	0
Clay, Willie, Det	2	34	17.0	20	0
Ervin, Ricky, Wash	2	29	14.5	18	0
Jurkovic, John, G.B.	2	22	11.0	13	0
Cross, Howard, Giants	2	15	7.5	13	0

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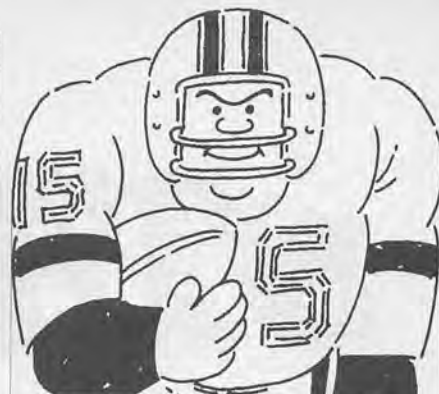
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AFC STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
Field Goals: 35, Jeff Jaeger, Los Angeles (1993)
Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Denver.....	42	13	27	2	41	42	26	35	1	373
Houston.....	40	11	23	6	39	40	29	34	1	368
Miami.....	40	10	27	3	37	40	24	32	0	349
Buffalo.....	37	12	20	5	36	37	23	32	1	329
Kansas City.....	37	14	20	3	37	37	23	29	0	328
San Diego.....	33	14	18	1	31	33	31	40	0	322
Pittsburgh.....	32	13	16	3	32	32	28	30	0	308
L.A. Raiders.....	29	10	17	2	27	29	35	44	0	306
Cleveland.....	36	8	23	5	36	36	16	22	2	304
Seattle.....	29	13	13	3	29	29	23	28	4	280
N.Y. Jets.....	31	14	16	1	31	31	17	26	1	270
New England.....	26	9	17	0	25	25	19	31	0	238
Indianapolis.....	16	4	10	2	15	16	26	31	0	189
Cincinnati.....	16	3	11	2	13	16	24	31	3	187

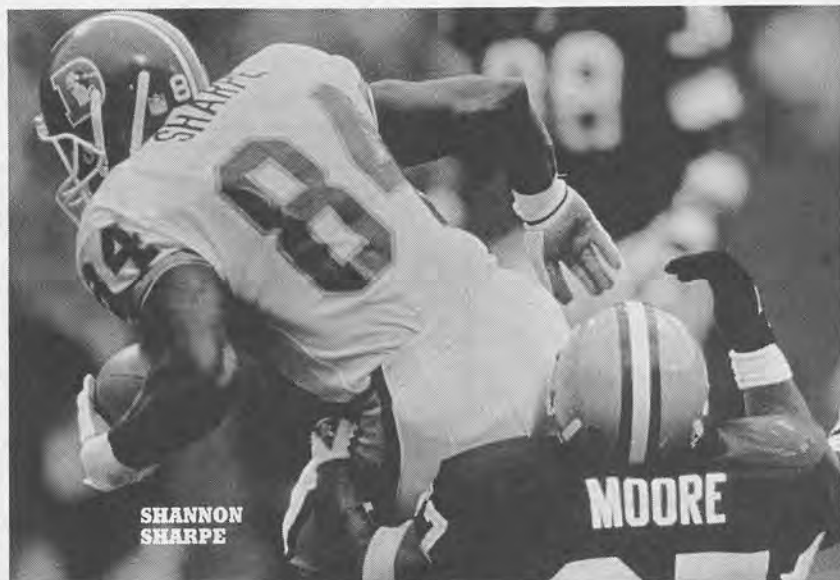
KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Jaeger, Jeff, <i>Raiders</i>	27	29	35	44	132
Del Greco, Al, <i>Hou.</i>	39	40	29	34	126
Carney, John, <i>S.D.</i>	31	33	31	40	124
Elam, Jason, <i>Den.</i>	41	42	26	35	119
Anderson, Gary, <i>Pit.</i>	32	32	28	30	116
Stoyanovich, Pete, <i>Mia.</i>	37	37	24	32	109
Lowery, Nick, <i>K.C.</i>	37	37	23	29	106
Christie, Steve, <i>Buf.</i>	36	37	23	32	105
Kasay, John, <i>Sea.</i>	29	29	23	28	98
Biasucci, Dean, <i>Ind.</i>	15	16	26	31	93
Pelfrey, Doug, <i>Cin.</i>	13	16	24	31	85
Stover, Matt, <i>Cle.</i>	36	36	16	22	84
Blanchard, Cary, <i>Jets</i>	31	31	17	26	82
Bahr, Matt, <i>Phi.-N.E.</i>	28	29	13	18	67
Sisson, Scott, <i>N.E.</i>	15	15	14	26	57

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Allen, Marcus, <i>K.C.</i>	15	12	3	0	90
Foster, Barry, <i>Pit.</i>	9	8	1	0	54
Sharpe, Shannon, <i>Den.</i>	9	0	9	0	54
Brown, Gary, <i>Hou.</i>	8	6	2	0	48
Brown, Tim, <i>Raiders</i>	8	0	7	1	48
Coates, Ben, <i>N.E.</i>	8	0	8	0	48
Delpino, Robert, <i>Den.</i>	8	8	0	0	48
Jackson, Michael, <i>Cle.</i>	8	0	8	0	48
Means, Natrone, <i>S.D.</i>	8	8	0	0	48
Baxter, Brad, <i>Jets</i>	7	7	0	0	42
Davis, Willie, <i>K.C.</i>	7	0	7	0	42
Miller, Anthony, <i>S.D.</i>	7	0	7	0	42
Russell, Leonard, <i>N.E.</i>	7	7	0	0	42
Warren, Chris, <i>Sea.</i>	7	7	0	0	42
Byars, Keith, <i>Mia.</i>	6	3	3	0	36
Davis, Kenneth, <i>Buf.</i>	6	6	0	0	36
Ingram, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Jackson, Keith, <i>Mia.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Jeffries, Haywood, <i>Hou.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Kirby, Terry, <i>Mia.</i>	6	3	3	0	36
Mitchell, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Pickens, Carl, <i>Cin.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Reed, Andre, <i>Buf.</i>	6	0	6	0	36
Thomas, Thurman, <i>Buf.</i>	6	6	0	0	36

Brooks, Bill, <i>Buf.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Carrier, Mark, <i>Cle.</i>	5	1	3	1	30
Culver, Rodney, <i>Ind.</i>	5	3	1	1	30
Fryar, Irving, <i>Mia.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Green, Eric, <i>Pit.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pit.</i>	5	1	4	0	30
Hostetler, Jeff, <i>Raiders</i>	5	5	0	0	30
Johnson, Vance, <i>Den.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Martin, Kelvin, <i>Sea.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Metcalfe, Eric, <i>Cle.</i>	5	1	2	2	30
Slaughter, Webster, <i>Hou.</i>	5	0	5	0	30
Bernstine, Rod, <i>Den.</i>	4	4	0	0	24
Burkett, Chris, <i>Jets</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Butts, Marion, <i>S.D.</i>	4	4	0	0	24
Cash, Keith, <i>K.C.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Givins, Ernest, <i>Hou.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Johnson, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	4	3	1	0	24
Lewis, Nate, <i>S.D.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
McCardell, Keenan, <i>Cle.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Metzelaars, Pete, <i>Buf.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Query, Jeff, <i>Cin.</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Russell, Derek, <i>Den.</i>	4	0	3	1	24
Vardell, Tommy, <i>Cle.</i>	4	3	1	0	24
Williams, John L., <i>Sea.</i>	4	3	1	0	24
Wright, Alexander, <i>Raiders</i>	4	0	4	0	24
Beebe, Don, <i>Buf.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Cash, Kerry, <i>Ind.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Duncan, Curtis, <i>Hou.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Higgs, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Jett, James, <i>Raiders</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Langhorne, Reggie, <i>Ind.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Martin, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
McCallum, Napoleon, <i>Raiders</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Milburn, Glyn, <i>Den.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Mirer, Rick, <i>Sea.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Stone, Dwight, <i>Pit.</i>	3	1	2	0	18
Thigpen, Yancey, <i>Pit.</i>	3	0	3	0	18
Thompson, Leroy, <i>Pit.</i>	3	3	0	0	18
Rivers, Reggie, <i>Den.</i>	2	1	1	0	*14
Birden, J.J., <i>K.C.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Brisby, Vincent, <i>N.E.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Carlson, Cody, <i>Hou.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Edmunds, Ferrell, <i>Sea.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Harmon, Ronnie, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Jefferson, Shawn, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Kinchen, Brian, <i>Cle.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Marshall, Arthur, <i>Den.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
McDuffie, O.J., <i>Mia.</i>	2	0	0	2	12
McNair, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Thornton, James, <i>Jets</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Tillman, Cedric, <i>Den.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Timpson, Michael, <i>N.E.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Turner, Kevin, <i>N.E.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
White, Lorenzo, <i>Hou.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Duane, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Stephens, Rod, <i>Sea.</i>	1	0	0	1	*10
Jones, Henry, <i>Buf.</i>	1	0	0	1	*8
Anders, Kimble, <i>K.C.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Baldwin, Randy, <i>Cle.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Ball, Eric, <i>Cin.</i>	1	1	0	0	6



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ALL PRO—The One That Your Competition Doesn't Want You to Know About!

Barnett, Tim, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Baty, Greg, Mia	1	0	1	0	6
Baxter, Fred, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Bell, Nick, Raiders	1	1	0	0	6
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Blackmon, Robert, Sea	1	0	0	1	6
Brim, Michael, Cin	1	0	0	1	6
Chaffey, Pat, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Childress, Ray, Hou	1	0	0	1	6
Cook, Marv, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Copeland, Russell, Buf	1	0	0	1	6
Crittenden, Ray, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Croel, Mike, Den	1	0	0	1	6
Croom, Corey, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Davidson, Kenny, Pit	1	0	0	1	6
Dawkins, Sean, Ind	1	0	1	0	6
Dishman, Cris, Hou	1	0	0	1	6
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Fenner, Derrick, Cin	1	1	0	0	6
Frank, Donald, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Gardner, Carwell, Buf	1	0	1	0	6
Gash, Sam, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Glover, Andrew, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
Green, Paul, Sea	1	0	1	0	6
Harris, Leonard, Hou	1	0	1	0	6
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Herrod, Jeff, Ind	1	0	0	1	6
Hester, Jessie, Ind	1	0	1	0	6
Horton, Ethan, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
Jackson, Steve, Hou	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Anthony, Ind	1	1	0	0	6
Johnson, Reggie, Den	1	0	1	0	6

Murrell, Adrian, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Mustafaa, Najee, Cle	1	0	0	1	6
Nash, Joe, Sea	1	0	0	1	6
Odomes, Nate, Buf	1	0	0	1	6
Oliver, Louis, Mia	1	0	0	1	6
Orlando, Bo, Hou	1	0	0	1	6
Philcox, Todd, Cle	1	1	0	0	6
Robertson, Marcus, Hou	1	0	0	1	6
Robinson, Greg, Raiders	1	1	0	0	6
Saleaumua, Dan, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Talley, Darryl, Buf	1	0	0	1	6
Thomas, Blair, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Thomas, Derrick, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Thompson, Craig, Cin	1	0	1	0	6
Tillman, Lawyer, Cle	1	0	1	0	6
Tillman, Spencer, Hou	1	0	1	0	6
Valerio, Joe, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Verdin, Clarence, Ind	1	0	1	0	6
Walker, Derrick, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Washington, Brian, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Washington, Mickey, Buf	1	0	0	1	6
Wellman, Gary, Hou	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Darryl, Cin	1	0	0	1	6
Wolfe, Ron, Cle	1	0	1	0	6
Woodson, Rod, Pit	1	0	0	1	6
Wyman, David, Den	1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Antonio, Sea	0	0	0	0	*2
Pleasant, Anthony, Cle	0	0	0	0	*2
Riddick, Louis, Cle	0	0	0	0	*2
Williams, Alfred, Cin	0	0	0	0	*2

*Safety

Team safeties: Cincinnati (2), Houston, New York, Seattle

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 390, Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (1992)

Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)

TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)

19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Seattle	473	2015	4.3	145	13
Pittsburgh	491	2003	4.1	138	13
Buffalo	550	1943	3.5	27	12
N.Y. Jets	521	1880	3.6	157	14
San Diego	455	1824	4.0	165	14
Houston	409	1792	4.4	35	11
New England	502	1780	3.5	49	9
Cleveland	425	1701	4.0	55	8
Denver	468	1693	3.6	26	13
Kansas City	445	1655	3.7	47	14
Cincinnati	423	1511	3.6	29	3
Miami	419	1459	3.5	177	10
L.A. Raiders	433	1425	3.3	19	10
Indianapolis	365	1288	3.5	34	4

1 or more yards	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Thomas, Thurman, Buf	355	1315	3.7	27	6
Russell, Leonard, N.E.	300	1088	3.6	21	7
Warren, Chris, Sea	273	1072	3.9	145	7
Brown, Gary, Hou	195	1002	5.1	26	6
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	198	821	4.1	157	3
Bernstine, Rod, Den	223	816	3.7	24	4
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	206	764	3.7	39	12
Thompson, Leroy, Pit	205	763	3.7	36	3
Butts, Marion, S.D.	185	746	4.0	27	4
Foster, Barry, Pit	177	711	4.0	38	8
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind	179	711	4.0	34	0
Higgs, Mark, Mia	186	693	3.7	31	3
Means, Natrone, S.D.	160	645	4.0	165	8
Vardell, Tommy, Cle	171	644	3.8	54	3
Metcalf, Eric, Cle	129	611	4.7	55	1
Robinson, Greg, Raiders	156	591	3.8	16	1
Green, Harold, Cin	215	589	2.7	25	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets	174	559	3.2	16	7
Fenner, Derrick, Cin	121	482	4.0	26	1
White, Lorenzo, Hou	131	465	3.5	14	2
Delapino, Robert, Den	131	445	3.4	18	8
Davis, Kenneth, Buf	109	391	3.6	19	6
Kirby, Terry, Mia	119	390	3.3	20	3
Williams, John L., Sea	82	371	4.5	38	3
Mirer, Rick, Sea	68	343	5.0	33	3
Johnson, Anthony, Ind	95	331	3.5	14	1

TIM BROWN

Johnson, Tracy, Sea	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, James, Cle	1	1	0	0	6
Kidd, John, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Kirkland, Levon, Pit	1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Darryll, Hou	1	0	0	1	6
Mack, Kevin, Cle	1	1	0	0	6
Marino, Dan, Mia	1	1	0	0	6
Mathis, Terance, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
McKeller, Keith, Buf	1	0	1	0	6
McMurtry, Greg, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Miles, Ostell, Cin	1	1	0	0	6
Mills, Ernie, Pit	1	0	1	0	6
Moon, Warren, Hou	1	1	0	0	6
Moore, Rob, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Moore, Stevon, Cle	1	0	0	1	6

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50+yd score	5 pts

RBs & WRs	
TD-Run	7 pts
TD-Pass	5 pts
Ea. 10 yds	1 pts
125+yd gm	5 pts
50+yd score	5 pts

2-pt Conv.	
Run	3 pts
Pass	2 pts

Kickers	
PAT	3 pts
FGs...	
Under 35 yd	5 pts
35-49 yds	7 pts
50+ yds	10 pts

Coach	
Win	12 pts
Final 2 min	5 pts
4th dn/good	4 pts

Defense	
TD	7 pts
Sack	2 pts
Safety	5 pts
4th dn/stop	4 pts
2-pt/stop	3 pts
Shutout	10 pts

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PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 404, Warren Moon, Houston (1991)

Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Elway, John, Den.	551	348	63.2	4030	7.31	25	4.5	63	10	1.8	39	293	92.8
Montana, Joe, K.C.	298	181	60.7	2144	7.19	13	4.4	150	7	2.3	12	61	87.4
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	230	130	56.5	1797	7.81	14	6.1	162	9	3.9	17	101	85.7
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	473	288	60.9	3421	7.23	16	3.4	77	11	2.3	18	139	84.5
Mitchell, Scott, Mia.	233	133	57.1	1773	7.61	12	5.2	177	8	3.4	7	49	84.2
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders	419	236	56.3	3242	7.74	14	3.3	174	10	2.4	38	206	82.5
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	470	288	61.3	3382	7.20	18	3.8	165	18	3.8	25	171	79.9
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	486	270	55.6	3208	6.60	14	2.9	171	7	1.4	41	331	79.5
George, Jeff, Ind.	407	234	57.5	2526	6.21	8	2.0	172	6	1.5	26	190	76.3
DeBerg, Steve, T.B.-Mia.	227	136	59.9	1707	7.52	7	3.1	47	10	4.4	18	143	75.3
Moon, Warren, Hou.	520	303	58.3	3485	6.70	21	4.0	180	21	4.0	34	218	75.2
Friesz, John, S.D.	328	128	53.8	1402	5.89	6	2.5	166	4	1.7	14	98	72.8
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	234	173	53.4	1981	6.11	12	3.7	148	10	3.1	18	142	71.5
Mirer, Rick, Sea.	486	274	56.4	2833	5.83	12	2.5	153	17	3.5	47	235	67.0
Klingler, David, Cin.	343	190	55.4	1935	5.64	6	1.7	51	9	2.6	40	202	66.6
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E.	429	214	49.9	2494	5.81	15	3.5	154	15	3.5	16	99	65.0

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Reich, Frank, Buf.	26	16	61.5	153	5.88	2	7.7	130	0	0.0	6	47	103.5
Marino, Dan, Mia.	150	91	60.7	1218	8.12	8	5.3	180	3	2.0	7	42	95.9
Krieg, Dave, K.C.	189	105	55.6	1238	6.55	7	3.7	166	3	1.6	22	138	81.4
Evans, Vince, Raiders	76	45	59.2	640	8.42	3	3.9	168	4	5.3	12	87	77.7
Schroeder, Jay, Cin.	159	78	49.1	832	5.23	5	3.1	37	2	1.3	13	87	70.0
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	90	51	56.7	605	6.72	2	2.2	47	4	4.4	8	53	66.2
Nagle, Browning, Jets	14	6	42.9	71	5.07	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	3	21	58.9
Trudeau, Jack, Ind.	162	85	52.5	992	6.12	2	1.2	68	7	4.3	2	11	57.4
Philcox, Todd, Cle.	108	52	48.1	699	6.47	4	3.7	56	7	6.5	7	60	54.5
Secules, Scott, N.E.	134	75	56.0	918	6.85	2	1.5	82	9	6.7	7	28	54.3
Tomczak, Mike, Pit.	54	29	53.7	398	7.37	2	3.7	139	5	9.3	7	43	51.3
Majkowski, Don, Ind.	24	13	54.2	105	4.38	0	0.0	17	1	4.2	1	5	48.1

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Average: 46.9 yards, Greg Montgomery, Houston (1992)

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Montgomery, Greg, Hou.	54	2462	77	45.6	5	0	28	249	13	39.1
Rouen, Tom, Den.	67	3017	62	45.0	8	1	33	337	17	37.1
Tulen, Rick, Sea.	90	4007	64	44.5	7	1	47	475	21	37.3
Hansen, Brian, Cle.	82	3632	72	44.3	10	2	49	438	15	35.6
Johnson, Lee, Cin.	90	3954	60	43.9	12	0	47	416	24	36.6
Stark, Rohn, Ind.	83	3595	65	43.3	13	0	41	352	18	35.9
Kidd, John, S.D.	57	2431	67	42.6	7	0	28	243	16	35.9
Barker, Bryan, K.C.	76	3240	59	42.6	8	1	43	352	19	35.4
Royals, Mark, Pit.	89	3781	61	42.5	3	0	50	678	28	34.2
Saxon, Mike, N.E.	73	3096	59	42.4	7	3	34	313	25	34.8
Gossett, Jeff, Raiders	71	2971	61	41.8	9	0	35	301	19	35.1
Mohr, Chris, Buf.	74	2991	58	40.4	4	0	29	247	19	36.0
Hatcher, Dale, Mia.	58	2304	56	39.7	4	0	32	359	13	32.2
Aguir, Louie, Jets	73	2806	71	38.4	7	0	26	156	21	34.4

NON-QUALIFIERS

Sullivan, Kent, S.D.-Hou.-S.D.	15	614	50	40.9	1	0	6	33	4	37.4
Carney, John, S.D.	4	155	46	38.8	0	0	2	16	1	34.8

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

Anders, Kimble, K.C.	75	291	3.9	18	0								
Klingler, David, Cin.	41	282	6.9	29	0								
McNair, Todd, K.C.	51	278	5.5	47	2								
Byars, Keith, Mia.	64	269	4.2	177	3								
Hoge, Merrill, Pit.	51	249	4.9	30	1								
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	52	231	4.4	26	0								
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	50	231	4.6	49	0								
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	56	227	4.1	30	0								
Thomas, Blair, Jets	59	221	3.7	24	1								
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	46	216	4.7	19	0								
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders	55	202	3.7	19	5								
Croom, Corey, N.E.	60	198	3.3	22	1								
Stephens, John, G.B.-K.C.	54	191	3.5	22	1								
Bell, Nick, Raiders	67	180	2.7	12	1								
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	34	157	4.6	137	1								
Smith, Steve, Raiders	47	156	3.3	13	0								
Elway, John, Den.	44	153	3.5	18	0								
Vaughn, Jon, Sea.	36	153	4.3	37	0								
Culver, Rodney, Ind.	65	150	2.3	9	3								
Gash, Sam, N.E.	48	149	3.1	14	1								
Williams, Harvey, K.C.	42	149	3.5	19	0								
Moon, Warren, Hou.	48	145	3.0	35	1								
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	33	135	4.1	12	1								
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	12	121	10.1	138	1								
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	45	118	2.6	17	1								
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	37	114	3.1	14	3								
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	26	111	4.3	27	0								
Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders	37	106	2.9	15	0								
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	36	102	2.8	17	0								
Tillman, Spencer, Hou.	9	94	10.4	34	0								
Mitchell, Scott, Mia.	21	89	4.2	32	0								
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E.	32	82	2.6	15	0								
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	18	74	4.1	14	0								
Montana, Joe, K.C.	25	64	2.6	17	0								
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	18	61	3.4	11	0								
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	20	56	2.8	8	0								
Miles, Ostell, Cin.	22	56	2.5	15	1								
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	5	53	10.6	33	0								
Blades, Brian, Sea.	5	52	10.4	26	0								
Evans, Vince, Raiders	14	51	3.6	17	0								
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	15	50	3.3	14	1								
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	14	41	2.9	110	2								

Schroeder, Jay, <i>Cin.</i>	10	41	4.1	20	0
George, Jeff, <i>Ind.</i>	13	39	3.0	14	0
Ball, Eric, <i>Cin.</i>	8	37	4.6	18	1
Humphries, Stan, <i>S.D.</i>	8	37	4.6	27	0
Turner, Nate, <i>Buf.</i>	11	36	3.3	10	0
Jones, Fred, <i>K.C.</i>	5	34	6.8	13	0
Jordan, Randy, <i>Raiders</i>	12	33	2.8	12	0
Mack, Kevin, <i>Cle.</i>	10	33	3.3	7	1
Secules, Scott, <i>N.E.</i>	8	33	4.1	13	0
Verdin, Clarence, <i>Ind.</i>	3	33	11.0	29	0
Brooks, Bill, <i>Buf.</i>	3	30	10.0	15	0
Thompson, Ernie, <i>K.C.</i>	11	28	2.5	14	0
Carrier, Mark, <i>Cle.</i>	4	26	6.5	115	1
Krieg, Dave, <i>K.C.</i>	21	24	1.1	20	0
Reed, Andre, <i>Buf.</i>	9	21	2.3	15	0
Mathis, Terance, <i>Jets</i>	2	20	10.0	117	1
Givins, Ernest, <i>Hou.</i>	6	19	3.2	16	0
Chaffey, Pat, <i>Jets</i>	5	17	3.4	7	0
Parmalee, Bernie, <i>Mia.</i>	4	16	4.0	12	0
Query, Jeff, <i>Cin.</i>	2	13	6.5	8	0
Saxon, James, <i>Mia.</i>	5	13	2.6	9	0
Bates, Michael, <i>Sea.</i>	2	12	6.0	6	0
Mills, Ernie, <i>Pit.</i>	3	12	4.0	19	0
Stark, Rohn, <i>Ind.</i>	1	11	11.0	11	0
Maston, Le Shai, <i>Hou.</i>	1	10	10.0	10	0
Richardson, Bucky, <i>Hou.</i>	2	9	4.5	11	0
Johnson, Tracy, <i>Sea.</i>	2	8	4.0	5	0
Brown, Tim, <i>Raiders</i>	2	7	3.5	14	0
Cuthbert, Randy, <i>Pit.</i>	1	7	7.0	7	0
Martin, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	1	6	6.0	6	0
Robinson, Patrick, <i>Cin.</i>	1	6	6.0	6	0
Toner, Ed, <i>Ind.</i>	2	6	3.0	6	0
Wellman, Gary, <i>Hou.</i>	2	6	3.0	4	0
Benjamin, Ryan, <i>Cin.</i>	3	5	1.7	2	0
Majkowski, Don, <i>Ind.</i>	2	4	2.0	4	0
Thomas, Doug, <i>Sea.</i>	1	4	4.0	4	0
Barnett, Tim, <i>K.C.</i>	1	3	3.0	3	0
Friesz, John, <i>S.D.</i>	10	3	0.3	2	0
Philcox, Todd, <i>Cle.</i>	2	3	1.5	13	1
Trudeau, Jack, <i>Ind.</i>	5	3	0.6	2	0
Carter, Dale, <i>K.C.</i>	1	2	2.0	2	0
Jones, James, <i>Cle.</i>	2	2	1.0	11	1
Lewis, Nate, <i>S.D.</i>	3	2	0.7	7	0
Mayes, Rueben, <i>Sea.</i>	1	2	2.0	2	0
Saxon, Mike, <i>N.E.</i>	2	2	1.0	2	0
Coleman, Pat, <i>Hou.</i>	1	1	1.0	1	0
Jackson, Michael, <i>Cle.</i>	1	1	1.0	1	0

Touchdown

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)

TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

2 or more receptions					
	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Langhorne, Reggie, <i>Ind.</i>	85	1038	12.2	172	3
Miller, Anthony, <i>S.D.</i>	84	1162	13.8	166	7
Sharpe, Shannon, <i>Den.</i>	81	995	12.3	63	9
Brown, Tim, <i>Raiders</i>	80	1180	14.8	171	7
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea.</i>	80	945	11.8	41	3
Slaughter, Webster, <i>Hou.</i>	77	904	11.7	41	5
Kirby, Terry, <i>Mia.</i>	75	874	11.7	47	3
Harmon, Ronnie, <i>S.D.</i>	73	671	9.2	37	2
Givins, Ernest, <i>Hou.</i>	68	887	13.0	180	4
Metzelaars, Pete, <i>Buf.</i>	68	609	9.0	51	4
Johnson, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	67	641	9.6	48	1
Jeffries, Haywood, <i>Hou.</i>	66	753	11.4	166	6
Fryar, Irving, <i>Mia.</i>	64	1010	15.8	165	5
Moore, Rob, <i>Jets</i>	64	843	13.2	51	1
Hester, Jessie, <i>Ind.</i>	64	835	13.0	58	1
Green, Eric, <i>Pit.</i>	63	942	15.0	171	5
Metcalf, Eric, <i>Cle.</i>	63	539	8.6	149	2
Byars, Keith, <i>Mia.</i>	61	613	10.0	27	3
Brooks, Bill, <i>Buf.</i>	60	714	11.9	32	5
Williams, John L., <i>Sea.</i>	58	450	7.8	25	1
Martin, Kelvin, <i>Sea.</i>	57	798	14.0	153	5
Query, Jeff, <i>Cin.</i>	56	654	11.7	51	4
Johnson, Anthony, <i>Ind.</i>	55	443	8.1	36	0
Coates, Ben, <i>N.E.</i>	53	659	12.4	154	8
Davis, Willie, <i>K.C.</i>	52	909	17.5	166	7
Reed, Andre, <i>Buf.</i>	52	854	16.4	165	6
Birden, J.J., <i>K.C.</i>	51	721	14.1	150	2
Fenner, Derrick, <i>Cin.</i>	48	427	8.9	40	0
Thomas, Thurman, <i>Buf.</i>	48	387	8.1	37	0
Brisby, Vincent, <i>N.E.</i>	45	626	13.9	39	2
Russell, Derek, <i>Den.</i>	44	719	16.3	43	3

Ingram, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	44	707	16.1	177	6
McGee, Tony, <i>Cin.</i>	44	525	11.9	37	0
Bernstine, Rod, <i>Den.</i>	44	372	8.5	41	0
Carrier, Mark, <i>Cle.</i>	43	746	17.3	55	3
Pickens, Carl, <i>Cin.</i>	43	565	13.1	36	6
Horton, Ethan, <i>Raiders</i>	43	467	10.9	32	1
Cash, Kerry, <i>Ind.</i>	43	402	9.3	37	3
Timpson, Michael, <i>N.E.</i>	42	654	15.6	48	2
Jackson, Michael, <i>Cle.</i>	41	756	18.4	162	8
Stone, Dwight, <i>Pit.</i>	41	587	14.3	44	2
Duncan, Curtis, <i>Hou.</i>	41	456	11.1	47	3
Burkett, Chris, <i>Jets</i>	40	531	13.3	77	4
Anders, Kimble, <i>K.C.</i>	40	326	8.2	27	1
Mitchell, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	39	630	16.2	165	6
Jackson, Keith, <i>Mia.</i>	39	613	15.7	157	6
Turner, Kevin, <i>N.E.</i>	39	333	8.5	26	2
Graham, Jeffrey, <i>Pit.</i>	38	579	15.2	51	0
Lewis, Nate, <i>S.D.</i>	38	463	12.2	47	4
Milburn, Glyn, <i>Den.</i>	38	300	7.9	50	3
Thompson, Leroy, <i>Pit.</i>	38	259	6.8	28	0
Johnson, Vance, <i>Den.</i>	36	517	14.4	56	5
Hoard, Leroy, <i>Cle.</i>	35	351	10.0	41	0
Allen, Marcus, <i>K.C.</i>	34	238	7.0	118	3
White, Lorenzo, <i>Hou.</i>	34	229	6.7	20	0
Jett, James, <i>Raiders</i>	33	771	23.4	174	3
Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pit.</i>	33	247	7.5	18	4
Beebe, Don, <i>Buf.</i>	31	504	16.3	165	3
Wellman, Gary, <i>Hou.</i>	31	430	13.9	44	1
Jefferson, Shawn, <i>S.D.</i>	30	391	13.0	139	2
Mills, Ernie, <i>Pit.</i>	29	386	13.3	30	1
Kinchen, Brian, <i>Cle.</i>	29	347	12.0	40	2
Marshall, Arthur, <i>Den.</i>	28	360	12.9	40	2
Wright, Alexander, <i>Raiders</i>	27	462	17.1	168	4
Foster, Barry, <i>Pit.</i>	27	217	8.0	21	1
Dawkins, Sean, <i>Ind.</i>	26	430	16.5	68	1
Ismail, Raghib, <i>Raiders</i>	26	353	13.6	143	1
Russell, Leonard, <i>N.E.</i>	26	245	9.4	69	0
Delpino, Robert, <i>Den.</i>	26	195	7.5	25	0
Potts, Roosevelt, <i>Ind.</i>	26	189	7.3	24	0
Mathis, Terance, <i>Jets</i>	24	352	14.7	46	0
Hayes, Jonathan, <i>K.C.</i>	24	331	13.8	49	1
Cash, Keith, <i>K.C.</i>	24	242	10.1	24	4
Edmunds, Ferrell, <i>Sea.</i>	24	239	10.0	32	2
Green, Paul, <i>Sea.</i>	23	178	7.7	20	1
McMurtry, Greg, <i>N.E.</i>	22	241	11.0	20	1
Cook, Marv, <i>N.E.</i>	22	154	7.0	17	1
Green, Harold, <i>Cin.</i>	22	115	5.2	16	0
Brown, Gary, <i>Hou.</i>	21	240	11.4	138	2
Walker, Derrick, <i>S.D.</i>	21	212	10.1	125	1
Davis, Kenneth, <i>Buf.</i>	21	95	4.5	28	0
Martin, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	20	347	17.4	180	3
Johnson, Reggie, <i>Den.</i>	20	243	12.2	38	1
Baxter, Brad, <i>Jets</i>	20	158	7.9	24	0
McDuffie, O.J., <i>Mia.</i>	19	197	10.4	18	0
Vardell, Tommy, <i>Cle.</i>	19	151	7.9	128	1
Smith, Steve, <i>Raiders</i>	18	187	10.4	22	0
Tillman, Cedric, <i>Den.</i>	17	193	11.4	30	2
Barnett, Tim, <i>K.C.</i>	17	182	10.7	25	1
Thompson, Craig, <i>Cin.</i>	17	87	5.1	10	1
Crittenden, Ray, <i>N.E.</i>	16	293	18.3	44	1
Robinson, Greg, <i>Raiders</i>	15	142	9.5	58	0
Butts, Marion, <i>S.D.</i>	15	105	7.0	23	0
Warren, Chris, <i>Sea.</i>	15	99	6.6	21	0
Arbuckle, Charles, <i>Ind.</i>	15	90	6.0	23	0
Gash, Sam, <i>N.E.</i>	14	93	6.6	15	0
Copeland, Russell, <i>Buf.</i>	13	242	18.6	60	0
McCardell, Keenan, <i>Cle.</i>	13	234	18.0	43	4
Pupunu, Alfred, <i>S.D.</i>	13	142	10.9	28	0
Thornton, James, <i>Jets</i>	12	108	9.0	22	2
Culver, Rodney, <i>Ind.</i>	11	112	10.2	26	1
Bell, Nick, <i>Raiders</i>	11	111	10.1	18	0
Thomas, Doug, <i>Sea.</i>	11	95	8.6	20	0
Barnes, Johnnie, <i>S.D.</i>	10	137	13.7	21	0
McNair, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	10	74	7.4	24	0
Higgs, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	10	72	7.2	15	0
Means, Natrone, <i>S.D.</i>	10	59	5.9	11	0
Montgomery, Tyrone, <i>Raiders</i>	10	43	4.3	9	0
Thigpen, Yancey, <i>Pit.</i>	9	154	17.1	139	3
Coleman, Pat, <i>Hou.</i>	9	129	14.3	25	0
Cooper, Adrian, <i>Pit.</i>	9	112	12.4	38	0
Jones, Fred, <i>K.C.</i>	9	111	12.3	19	0
Rembert, Reggie, <i>Cin.</i>	8	101	12.6	21	0
Croom, Corey, <i>N.E.</i>	8	92	11.5	21	0
Kimbrough, Tony, <i>Den.</i>	8	79	9.9	16	0
Robinson, Patrick, <i>Cin.</i>	8	72	9.0	14	0
Gault, Willie, <i>Raiders</i>	8	64	8.0	12	0
Jones, Hassan, <i>K.C.</i>	7	91	13.0	22	0

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AFCstatistics

Dyal, Mike, K.C.	7	83	11.9	31	0
Thomas, Robb, Sea.	7	67	9.6	16	0
Williams, Harvey, K.C.	7	42	6.0	14	0
Thomas, Blair, Jets	7	25	3.6	7	0
Miles, Ostell, Cin.	6	89	14.8	27	0
Carpenter, Rob, Jets	6	83	13.8	18	0
Carroll, Wesley, Cin.	6	81	13.5	28	0
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	6	59	9.8	17	1
Frisch, David, Cin.	6	43	7.2	12	0
Young, Duane, S.D.	6	41	6.8	12	2
Baty, Greg, Mia.	5	78	15.6	32	1
Tillman, Lawyer, Cle.	5	68	13.6	18	1
Woffley, Ron, Cle.	5	25	5.0	9	1
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	5	12	2.4	8	0
Cox, Aaron, Ind.	4	59	14.8	24	0
Chaffey, Pat, Jets	4	55	13.8	120	1
Glover, Andrew, Raiders	4	55	13.8	26	1
Smith, Rico, Cle.	4	55	13.8	17	0
Harris, Leonard, Hou.	4	53	13.3	117	1
Davenport, Charles, Pit.	4	51	12.8	19	0
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	4	50	12.5	22	1
Jordan, Randy, Raiders	4	42	10.5	33	0
Ball, Eric, Cin.	4	39	9.8	24	0
Thompson, Ernie, K.C.	4	33	8.3	13	0
Baxter, Fred, Jets	3	48	16.0	25	1
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	3	44	14.7	18	0
Rowe, Patrick, Cle.	3	37	12.3	16	0
McKeller, Keith, Buf.	3	35	11.7	113	1
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	3	15	5.0	8	1
Brown, Reggie, Hou.	2	30	15.0	26	0
Tasker, Steve, Buf.	2	26	13.0	22	0
Brown, Troy, N.E.	2	22	11.0	14	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	2	20	10.0	19	1
Awalt, Robert, Buf.	2	19	9.5	10	0
Miller, Scott, Mia.	2	15	7.5	8	0
Sadowski, Troy, Jets	2	14	7.0	11	0
Thomason, Jeff, Cin.	2	8	4.0	5	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	2	5	2.5	3	0

† Touchdown

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)
Yards: 349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)
Longest return: 103 yards,

Vencie Glenn, San Diego (1987)

Louis Oliver, Miami (1992)

TDs: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	9	80	8.9	28	0
Odomes, Nate, Buf.	9	65	7.2	25	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	8	138	17.3	163	1
Robertson, Marcus, Hou.	7	137	19.6	69	0
Carrington, Darren, S.D.	7	104	14.9	28	0
Washington, Brian, Jets	6	128	21.3	162	1
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	6	74	12.3	30	0
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	6	61	10.2	24	0
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	5	87	17.4	136	1
Jackson, Steve, Hou.	5	54	10.8	122	1
Mincy, Charles, K.C.	5	44	8.8	20	0
Brown, J.B., Mia.	5	43	8.6	29	0
Turner, Eric, Cle.	5	25	5.0	19	0
Perry, Darren, Pit.	4	61	15.3	30	0
Hunter, Patrick, Sea.	4	54	13.5	34	0
Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	4	53	13.3	24	0
Buchanan, Ray, Ind.	4	45	11.3	28	0
Lake, Carmell, Pit.	4	31	7.8	26	0
Frank, Donald, S.D.	3	119	39.7	1102	1
Brim, Michael, Cin.	3	74	24.7	30	1
Talley, Darryl, Buf.	3	74	24.7	161	1
Orlando, Bo, Hou.	3	68	22.7	138	1
Smith, Dennis, Den.	3	57	19.0	36	0
Johnson, David, Pit.	3	51	17.0	26	0
Braxton, Tyrone, Den.	3	37	12.3	25	0
Lott, Ronnie, Jets	3	35	11.7	29	0
Gray, Carlton, Sea.	3	33	11.0	16	0
McDowell, Bubba, Hou.	3	31	10.3	13	0
Baylor, John, Ind.	3	11	3.7	7	0
Jones, Selwyn, Cle.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Wren, Darryl, N.E.	3	-7	-2.3	2	0
Williams, Darryl, Cin.	2	126	63.0	197	1

Jones, Henry, Buf.	2	92	46.0	185	1
Atwater, Steve, Den.	2	81	40.5	68	0
Oliver, Louis, Mia.	2	60	30.0	156	1
Seau, Junior, S.D.	2	58	29.0	42	0
Anderson, Eddie, Raiders	2	52	26.0	27	0
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	2	49	24.5	48	0
Hoskins, Derrick, Raiders	2	34	17.0	20	0
Darby, Matt, Buf.	2	32	16.0	32	0
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	2	29	14.5	23	0
Hasty, James, Jets	2	22	11.0	22	0
Thomas, Eric, Jets	2	20	10.0	20	0
White, Sheldon, Cin.	2	19	9.5	14	0
Bayless, Martin, K.C.	2	14	7.0	16	0
Pope, Marquez, S.D.	2	14	7.0	12	0
Dronett, Shane, Den.	2	13	6.5	7	0
Francis, James, Cin.	2	12	6.0	12	0
Jones, Gary, Pit.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Williams, James, Buf.	2	11	5.5	6	0
Plummer, Gary, S.D.	2	7	3.5	6	0
Lang, Le-Lo, Den.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Lewis, Mo, Jets	2	4	2.0	3	0
Blackmon, Robert, Sea.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Green, Chris, Mia.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Patton, Marcus, Buf.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Vanhorse, Sean, S.D.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Washington, Lionel, Raiders	2	0	0.0	0	0

† Touchdown



RECORDS

Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Terance Mathis, New York (1990)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	36	11	464	12.9	191	2
Gordon, Darrien, S.D.	31	15	395	12.7	54	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	40	20	465	11.6	174	1
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	28	22	317	11.3	172	2
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	40	11	425	10.6	54	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	27	4	247	9.1	30	0
Brown, Troy, N.E.	25	9	224	9.0	19	0
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	31	7	274	8.8	147	1
Harris, Ronnie, N.E.	23	4	201	8.7	21	0
Martin, Kelvin, Sea.	32	15	270	8.4	33	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	42	10	338	8.0	39	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin.	43	6	305	7.1	36	0
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	41	19	275	6.7	18	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	30	17	173	5.8	24	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Hicks, Cliff, Jets	17	4	157	9.2	20	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	14	8	99	7.1	16	0
Carrier, Mark, Cle.	6	1	92	15.3	156	1
Birden, J.J., K.C.	5	3	43	8.6	12	0
Figures, Deon, Pit.	5	2	15	3.0	6	0
Pickens, Carl, Cin.	4	2	16	4.0	9	0
Hughes, Danan, K.C.	3	0	49	16.3	29	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	3	2	17	5.7	7	0
Crittenden, Ray, N.E.	2	1	37	18.5	30	0
Mincy, Charles, K.C.	2	0	9	4.5	9	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979)
55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

Yards: 1,317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)

Longest: 106 yards,

Nolan Smith, Kansas City (1967)

TDs: 3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	25	605	24.2	66	0
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	32	755	23.6	48	0
Ball, Eric, Cin.	23	501	21.8	45	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	50	1050	21.0	38	0
Crittenden, Ray, N.E.	23	478	20.8	44	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	33	684	20.7	60	0
Bates, Michael, Sea.	30	603	20.1	46	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin.	130	567	18.9	42	0
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	24	444	18.5	31	0
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	24	436	18.2	28	0
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	23	342	14.9	23	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Russell, Derek, Den.	18	374	20.8	49	0
Vaughn, Jon, Sea.	16	280	17.5	31	0
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	15	318	21.2	47	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	15	294	19.6	44	0
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	15	293	19.5	34	0
Brown, Troy, N.E.	15	243	16.2	29	0
Hughes, Danan, K.C.	14	266	19.0	30	0
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	13	286	22.0	39	0
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	12	188	15.7	26	0
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	12	177	14.8	22	0
Dickerson, Ron, K.C.	11	237	21.5	44	0
Mills, John Henry, Hou.	11	230	20.9	37	0
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	11	168	15.3	30	0
Wright, Alexander, Raiders	10	167	16.7	28	0
Beebe, Don, Buf.	10	160	16.0	22	0
Jones, Fred, K.C.	9	156	17.3	29	0
Prior, Anthony, Jets	9	126	14.0	27	0
Williams, Mike, Mia.	8	180	22.5	39	0
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	8	100	12.5	18	0
Gault, Willie, Raiders	7	187	26.7	60	0
Delapino, Robert, Den.	7	146	20.9	49	0
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	7	110	15.7	18	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	7	102	14.6	28	0
Harris, Ronnie, N.E.	6	90	15.0	19	0
Stephens, John, K.C.	5	88	17.6	25	0
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	4	85	21.3	26	0
Benjamin, Ryan, Cin.	4	78	19.5	24	0
Thompson, Leroy, Pit.	4	77	19.3	27	0
Anderson, Richie, Jets	4	66	16.5	22	0
Miles, Ostell, Cin.	4	65	16.3	24	0
Vardell, Tommy, Cle.	4	58	14.5	16	0
Robinson, Greg, Raiders	4	57	14.3	33	0
Williams, Harvey, K.C.	3	53	17.7	26	0
Culver, Rodney, Ind.	3	51	17.0	20	0
Martin, Kelvin, Sea.	3	38	12.7	15	0
Coleman, Pat, Hou.	3	37	12.3	16	0
Hoge, Merrill, Pit.	3	33	11.0	15	0
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	2	42	21.0	29	0
Lamb, Brad, Buf.	2	40	20.0	23	0
Thomas, Blair, Jets	2	39	19.5	28	0
Brown, Gary, Hou.	2	29	14.5	16	0
Hendrickson, Steve, S.D.	2	25	12.5	13	0
Means, Natrone, S.D.	2	22	11.0	14	0
Miller, Scott, Mia.	2	22	11.0	16	0
Peat, Todd, Raiders	2	18	9.0	10	0
Smith, Kevin, Raiders	2	15	7.5	8	0
Butcher, Paul, Ind.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Sabb, Dwayne, N.E.	2	0	0.0	0	0

† Fair Catch

1994 Fleer Football.

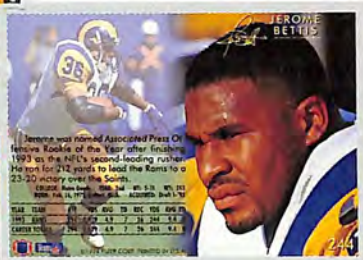


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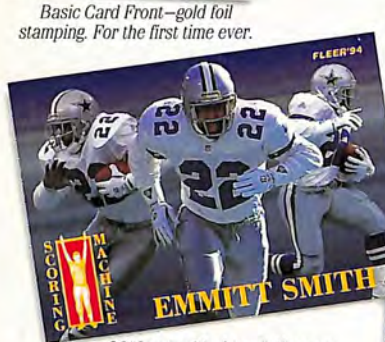
25 "NFL Prospects"—this year's top draft picks!



5 "Award Winners"—the NFL's super achievers.



10 "League Leaders"—top statistical performers.



20 "Scoring Machines"—the guys who really light up the scoreboard.



24 "Fleer All-Pro"—the best of the best.



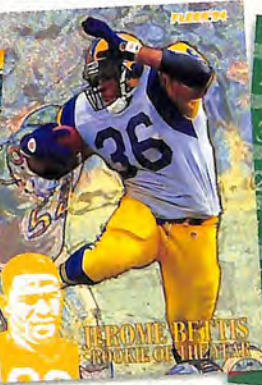
6 "Living Legends"—100% metallized design—very scarce.



20 "Rookie Sensations"—highlighting '93 rookies. Only in 21-card packs.



"ProVisions"™ Original Art—9 interlocking cards.



12-card Jerome Bettis "Rookie Of The Year" Highlights Set.



"All-Rookie Set" exchange card—very rare. Mail it in for 12 top rookies.

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